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EVERY WEEKDAY

Treasury suffers £2bn revenue shortfall

Bootleggers force Brown's Budget hand

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

GORDON BROWN is to unveil a tougher-than-expected Budget after being hit by a £2 billion shortfall in revenue, much of it because of tobacco smuggling.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer is expected to announce an investigation into the operation of Customs and Excise after officials told him that he was losing more than £1 billion in duty a year through organised cigarette smuggling.

The worldwide drop in oil prices will also mean the loss of several million pounds in revenue.

Mr Brown's room for manoeuvre next Tuesday is believed to have been severely curtailed by the shortfall, which was not reflected in the healthy January borrowing figures that encouraged speculation about a generous Budget.

The Treasury has been alarmed by such reports, because the good January figures did not take account of the lost Excise revenue. Treasury insiders are urging caution and one said: "The Chancellor has made plain that he wants to keep to his golden rule that tax revenues have to cover current spending and that the public finances should remain in surplus for the next four years. If the revenues are lower than expected, it means that the amount we spend will not be as much."

That means hopes of much higher public spending emerging from the Budget are likely to be dashed. The allocations made to ministers in last year's comprehensive spending review are not under threat, but requests to Mr Brown for extra spending this year may fall on deaf ears.

It also remained uncertain last night whether Mr Brown would go ahead with his long-promised plan to introduce a 10p income tax rate next week. Most analysts had expected him to do so and to help to finance the change through cutting or wiping out the remaining 10 per cent of mortgage interest relief.

The Chancellor is still believed to want to tax child benefit, although

A handshake carefully staged for the cameras marked the end of one of the longest political feuds in British politics on Saturday night (Shirley English writes).

Robin Cook and Gordon Brown officially buried the hatchet after barely speaking to each other socially for 20 years.

The truce was called at a party at Livingston Football Club to mark the Foreign Secretary's 25th anniversary as an MP. The two ministers shook hands while Mr Cook's wife, Gaynor, and Sarah Macaulay, the Chancellor's girlfriend, looked on. A few words of mutual admiration cemented the reconciliation.

practical difficulties over the principle of independent taxation mean that he is unlikely to do so this year. He may, however, set a target date to start taxing the benefit paid to all mothers.

The Government has been shocked by the rise in tobacco smuggling. Professional crime syndicates are moving to cigarettes because the authorities have been more successful in stopping drugs

smuggling. Container-loads of cigarettes are being brought through the ports with the result that one in eight cigarettes smoked in Britain is smuggled, according to government sources. Without a tip-off, Customs officers have little hope of stopping the trade and the loss to the revenue is likely to double within three years unless something can be done to check the trade.

To that end, Mr Brown is to appoint a senior figure from industry to take charge of efforts to clamp down on the illegal trade. His remit will include an overall look at Customs and Excise operations to see whether staff and resources are being deployed in the right way.

Mr Brown has, however, rejected calls to cut tobacco taxation as a way of deterring smuggling, and the cost of a packet of cigarettes is likely to rise by 20p to an average £3.64. Increasing the tax on smoking in part of the Government's health policy.

The new anti-smuggling chief will consider the practicalities of stamping cigarette packets with their countries of origin and the feasibility of equipping ports with giant X-ray machines to inspect containers.

Sources said the investigation would be rigorous and more officials are expected to be assigned to dealing with cigarettes.

"We are unlikely to put money into Customs unless we are absolutely satisfied that the money is being properly spent. The situation is deeply alarming. Some 2 per cent of the market was smuggled in 1996. That figure has gone up to 10 per cent in two years."



Sarah Macaulay and Gordon Brown at the celebration to mark Robin Cook's 25 years as an MP

Scottish Parliament to sideline the Queen

By Alan Hamilton

BUCKINGHAM Palace is dismayed by the Queen's limited role for the ceremonial opening of the Scottish Parliament. Edinburgh has been given by argument over the extent of the Queen's participation, with some nationalist voices wanting her to have only a minimal walk-on part.

Now, after months of bickering, a compromise has been reached: she will travel in the Scottish State Coach in a horse-drawn procession from the Palace of Holyroodhouse up the City's Royal Mile, but her part in the opening ceremony is expected to be a few formal words. The day's main event will be a "people's procession".

Traditionalists want her to wear the robes of the Order of the Thistle, Scotland's equivalent of the Garter, but that has yet to be decided. Many Scots were offended when, in 1953, she made her first official visit to their country after the Coronation wearing ordinary day clothes and carrying a handbag.

Nor has it been agreed what ceremonial role will be given to the country's Crown Jewels, normally displayed in Edinburgh Castle. Some want them carried at the end of the procession from Holyroodhouse. At the annual State Opening of Parliament at Westminster the Imperial State Crown is borne in its own coach.

Palace officials are considering a greater role for the Princess Royal, already the Royal Family's most regular visitor to Scotland with a heavy programme of public engagements. But the Palace yesterday dismissed as "wholly wrong" a report that she would establish a permanent office at Holyroodhouse.

Sources also rejected a suggestion that the Queen would appoint a Private Secretary for Scotland.

"The Royal Family does not take Scotland — or for that matter Wales — for granted," a Palace source said yesterday. "... Scotland and Wales are important domestic issues and we will be looking closely at how the union develops."

Leading article, page 21

General in poll lead

Amid widespread allegations of vote-rigging, Oluf Falae refused to accept the victory of General Olusegun Obasanjo in the Nigerian presidential election.

International observers reported many irregularities and the country's transition from dictatorship to democracy was at risk as members of Mr Falae's All People's Party stormed out of the electoral commission offices during counting. Page 12

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Owen and Healey will mount anti-euro drive

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

DAVID OWEN and Denis Healey, veterans of the last Labour government, will return to the political front line today to present a challenge to the Government's move towards the euro.

Along with Lord Prior, the Heathite former Tory Cabinet minister, and leading businessmen, they will join forces in a powerful new group billed as pro-European but opposed to Britain abandoning sterling.

Their move comes the day after William Hague hardened his party's stance against the euro and made plain that he would be happy to be at the forefront of any anti-euro campaign.

The Conservative party leader brushed aside the announcement by five Europhile Tories that they would stand against the party in June's European elections and, in what was seen as a warning to Kenneth Clarke and Michael Heseltine, said that any Tory MPs

failing to back official candidates would be "out on their ear". He also announced a policy commission of economists and experts to study the advantages of keeping the pound. Mr Hague dismissed the newly formed Pro-Euro Conservative Party as a "sour grapes" party because two of the leaders had been deselected.

Family split: Peter Riddell, 8; Leading article, 21; Letters, 21

Tony Blair's perceived shift towards the euro as he launched the national changeover plan last week has given new urgency to today's launch. Lord Healey, the last Labour Chancellor before Gordon Brown, yesterday delivered a warning that the euro could crash before Mr Blair was called upon to make a deci-

sion. Imposing a single interest rate and exchange rate meant the project was doomed to failure, he said. Lord Prior, a former Northern Ireland Secretary and Employment Secretary and former chairman of GEC, issued a warning that monetary union could mean heavier social, labour and pension costs and that Britain should "give it a miss".

He said that he was sad to be in the opposite camp to his old friend and boss, Edward Heath. "But it is because I felt so strongly about this I decided it was time to stand up and be counted."

Lord Owen, former Labour Foreign Secretary, declared that he wanted Britain to remain self-governing. He will lead the New Europe group, to be launched in London this morning. He said he believed in the EU and single market, but did not want to be "dragged into a single state".

Straw returns to more controversy

By Claudia Joseph and Philip Webster

THE Home Secretary will be back at his desk today after disappearing for 72 hours at the height of the controversy over the Stephen Lawrence inquiry report.

Having evaded the media during his weekend in the south of France, Jack Straw will return to new claims of bungling in the Lawrence case



"He must be trying to avoid Jack Cunningham"

and calls for his resignation. But his most pressing task will be the publication of another critical report on race relations in the police force, published by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary.

Instead of facing MPs himself, Mr Straw left his deputy, Paul Boateng, to make an emergency statement to the Commons apologising for the "serious and regrettable" errors which led to publication of the names and addresses of police informants in the Macpherson report.

Yesterday Sir Norman Fowler, the Shadow Home Secretary, said Mr Straw should be "considering his position". The Home Secretary should have been in Britain, offering reassurance to witnesses and checking that they had not been placed in danger, Sir Norman claimed.

The Inspectorate of Constabulary report today is expected to castigate forces for not doing enough to combat racism. Continued on page 2, col 3

Beano original sells for £6,000

By Hannah Betts



The first edition Beano, complete with mask

DENNIS the Menace and the Bash Street Kids were mere twinkles in the cartoonist's eye when the first edition of the Beano was published in 1938. Instead, Big Eggo the ostrich ruled the roost, a character long since consigned to comic history. Lord Snooty is the only relic from 1938 to have lasted into the 1990s and only the boy aristocrat and his pals could now afford the original edition, which sold at auction yesterday for £6,200, the largest sum ever paid for a comic in Britain.

The proud owner is Oliver Driscoll, 25,

from Matlock, Derbyshire, a cameraman who grew up on the exploits of Dennis the Menace and Gnasher. After a battle of nerves in the auction room, Mr Driscoll felt he had got excellent value for money.

"It's brilliant," he enthused, holding back tears of emotion. "I've always been a big fan of the Beano and a first edition is something I've long since had my eye on."

The comic, dated July 30, 1938, is one of only six copies of the first edition known to be in existence. Its value was boosted because it came with the only known surviving Whoopee mask, a cover-mount given away free to readers.

The original owner, who wishes to remain anonymous, is a 70-year-old man from the West Country whose son galvanised him into action after watching a television programme about the value of old comics. The comic was bought for him by his mother for the princely sum of two old pennies — less than 1p.

Euan Kerr, today's Beano editor, said: "In those days, a comic was a completely throwaway item and nobody would have thought of keeping them, which is why they are so rare. This owner hadn't been keeping it as an heirloom. It had just been sitting up in a loft gathering dust."

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Lords commission expected to stumble over tight deadline

By JAMES LANDALE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Royal Commission on House of Lords reform meets today for the first time amid growing criticism of its membership and timetable.

The 12-member body headed by Lord Wakeham, the former Tory minister, is expected to hammer out its work programme for the coming months and hold an initial discussion of the potential options for radical constitutional change.

The Commission has been or-

dered by the Government to report by the end of the year. If successful, the Commission will have been the shortest ever and will have solved in exactly 10 months, a thorny constitutional riddle which has remained unanswered for more than a century.

Constitutional experts believe the tight deadline means the Commission will not have time to think radically and will, instead, propose conservative reforms which are acceptable to the Government.

Concerns have also been raised

privately in the Lords over the distinguished but hardly radical membership of the Commission. Comprising nine men and three women, it includes Lord Hurd of Westwell, the former Tory foreign secretary, Lord Butler of Brockwell, the former Cabinet secretary, and Sir Michael Wheeler-Booth, a former Clerk of the Parliaments.

The chief fear is that the Commission will simply follow the lead given by the Government in its recent White Paper and propose a mostly appointed second chamber with a

modest, indirectly elected element. "Whether the Royal Commission will be influenced in that direction remains to be seen," Lord Richards, the sacked Labour leader in the Lords, said last week. "I hope it will resist that temptation."

Writing in Bristol University's latest newsletter, Donald Shell, senior lecturer in politics and leading expert on the Lords, said: "One does wonder how serious an exercise the Commission and the chairmanship of Lord Wakeham is intended to be. Giving the task to a bunch of busy

people who will manage a few meetings between now and the end of the year implies that ministers want a solution to the House of Lords' problem, rather than any serious reflection on the role of the second chamber in the context of other constitutional reforms underway."

Some peers believe that if the Royal Commission does come up with radical proposals unacceptable to the Government, its report will simply be ignored. Lord Carter, the Chief Whip in the Lords, said last week during a debate on reform,

that there would be "no question" of the Royal Commission being ignored.

He added, however: "No government is bound by the conclusions of a royal commission. We cannot predict that the outcome of the Commission's work will be wholly acceptable to the Government."

Mr Shell believes that if the so-called Weatherill Amendment temporarily saving 91 hereditary peers from expulsion survives, the Government would be very tempted to ignore the Royal Commission's

work and just allow the transitional, appointed second chamber to become the long-term status quo. The amendment, expected to be tabled next month, when the first stage House of Lords Bill expelling hereditary peers reaches the Lords, was a government compromise to buy off Tory Peers threatening Parliamentary trench warfare.

The Commission will meet initially for a buffer lunch today at its Westminster offices in London.

Leading article, page 21

Jay faces row on change in rape evidence

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Minister for Women, Baroness Jay of Paddington, was last night at the centre of a row over government plans to reform the admissibility of women's sexual history in rape trials.

The proposals are shortly to be considered by the House of Lords. They are opposed by both the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham of Cornhill, and the organisation Women Against Rape — for conflicting reasons.

The controversy has been fuelled by the disclosure that the Government's own Women's Unit, headed by Lady Jay, says that there are times when a woman's sexual history may be relevant. In particular, the unit says that it could be relevant to whether a man thought a woman had consented to sex or not — the attacker's defence that he "thought she wanted it".

The Women's Unit says: "A defendant might claim that he believed the complainant was consenting because he had been told that she always kicked and screamed during sex. This would be relevant to his honest belief."

The disclosure, in a letter to Women Against Rape, has outraged and dismayed the group, which argues that the Home Secretary's proposals give wide latitude for a woman's sexual history to be admitted. Under present law, a man cannot be convicted of rape if

he honestly believed a woman consented. This is based on a ruling in 1976.

In a reply to the Women's Unit, Women Against Rape condemn the failure by Lady Jay to meet their request — backed by 200 organisations — to support a ban on questions about sexual history in rape trials. "How can rape victims expect protection if after two decades of campaigning for protective laws, the Women's Unit — which is supposed to represent their interests — believes rapists' lies over women's evidence?" the pressure group says. "Rapist after rapist has been allowed to walk free after claiming that the victim he had beaten black and blue loved 'rough sex'."

Jack Straw's proposals seek to curb judges' discretion on admitting as evidence a woman's sexual history. But judges would be able to admit such material where it is evidence of a man's belief in consent. Women Against Rape say that this means the protection which the proposals appear to give would evaporate. They want tighter restrictions.

The Lord Chief Justice is arguing that what is admitted should be at the discretion of the trial judge, as now. The Bill will also stop defendants cross-examining their victims, a move opposed by the Lord Chief Justice — and also by Women Against Rape.

Ruth Hall, of Women

Against Rape, said: "This is a false protection. Most rapists are represented by barristers who are more skilled than themselves in humiliating and discrediting victims." The issue was not who asked the questions, but what questions were asked, she added. "Many countries now ban sexual history evidence. None makes an exception for a man who claims he believed that a woman who was kicking and screaming was consenting."

The proposals are contained in the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Bill and are expected to be debated by peers at the Bill's Report stage.

The Women's Unit says that Lady Jay shares the concern of Women Against Rape that "irrelevant evidence about complainants' previous sexual history should be kept out of sexual offence trials."

The Lord Chief Justice wishes to retain the discretion that judges currently have on whether sexual history is allowed; but Women Against Rape argue that the Government's proposals create a huge gateway for sexual history to be admitted. Lord Thomas of Gresford has highlighted the fundamental flaw in the Bill that "in almost every case where the defence is one of consent, there will be an additional defence that, even if the complainant did not consent, the defendant reasonably believed that she did consent."



Errol Kerr loves figures so much that he is able to recognise video films by the serial numbers that flash up

HE HAS a photographic memory, can count to ten in five languages including Swahili, recognises videos by their serial number, has an IQ of 150 — all at the age of three.

Errol Kerr, who has just started nursery school, has astonished his family and teachers. His parents, Alison and Steven, are desperately trying to keep up with their son's insatiable appetite for knowledge.

Mrs Kerr, 33, from South Shields, noticed her son's talent when he was just a baby. "He was very demanding. I

Boy has genius figured out at 3

could only feed him or dress him when I played certain kinds of music. It was if the words were registering with him. When he was about 12 months I used to put Disney videos in the recorder for him, but he would shout out what they were before they came on the television I tried to do it

without showing him the cover, but he still knew what it was. It was then I realised that he was recognising the serial number that flashes up before the trailers start.

A Volvo." Tests showed that Errol had an IQ level in reading and comprehension of 150, equivalent to that of an eight-year-old.

The local authority has assigned education experts to monitor the boy's progress. A spokesman for South Tyneside Education Authority said: "Errol has outstanding ability."

Mrs Kerr, a computer operator who has two other children, said: "I don't know where he gets it from; he certainly doesn't take after me or my husband."

Police investigate MoD hacker claim

SCOTLAND YARD'S Fraud Squad is investigating allegations that a hacker has succeeded in breaking into secret military installations in Britain (Michael Evans writes).

Fraud Squad officers, who are responsible for investigating offences against the Computer Misuse Act, began inquiries after suspicions that several "international sites", including military installations, had been targeted by a hacker. Scotland Yard confirmed that an investigation was under way but refused to give any more information.

Ministry of Defence sources firmly denied a report that a hacker had managed to take control of one of Britain's mili-

tary communications satellites and had altered its course. The MoD's SkyNet 4 satellites provide secure communications for all British Armed Forces overseas. Until last week there were four such satellites in orbit. Last week a fifth satellite was launched on an Ariane rocket at the European Space Centre in French Guiana. MoD sources said all the SkyNet satellites were "on course" and denied that a hacker had tried to interfere with them.

A Sunday Business report claimed that the MoD had had to report that one of its satellites had been taken over by a hacker. The MoD sources said the satellites were immune from hacking.

IRA weapons will not be forfeited, say chiefs

By MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

SINN FEIN'S leaders emphatically ruled out IRA disarmament yesterday as several thousand supporters attended a Belfast rally to demand their party's immediate and unconditional inclusion in Northern Ireland's new government.

"There's not even the remotest possibility of the IRA responding to this unilateral demand... for the surrender of the IRA," Martin McGuinness, Sinn Fein's chief negotiator, told the BBC.

He added that Unionists were "unable to accept that in the course of 30 years they

hadn't the ability to militarily defeat the IRA."

Michael McLaughlin, Sinn Fein's more moderate chairman, issued the same defiant message at the afternoon rally. He accused Unionists of fighting a rear-guard action against change and nationalist empowerment, and said their veto on full implementation of the Good Friday Agreement had to be removed.

"We are sick, sore and tired of [Unionists] blocking, stalling, prevaricating, making deals then backing out of deals and constantly trying to re-

write the Good Friday agreement," he said.

The Government has set Wednesday week as a target date for transferring power to Northern Ireland. That will not happen unless the new executive has been set up but David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist Party leader, will not set up an executive that includes Sinn Fein without a downpayment of IRA weaponry. Mr McLaughlin insisted Sinn Fein was committed to contributing to building trust, but any capitulation to Unionist demands would be a betrayal.

Straw family take flights on cheap

By CLAUDIA JOSEPH

THE Home Secretary and his wife, Alice, who earn more than £50,000 between them and own three houses, saved £360 by flying to the south of France on the budget airline easyJet.

EasyJet's most expensive flights, from Luton to Nice, cost £129 each way but Mr Straw, who earns £87,851, booked the tickets before Christmas at a discount price of £39 each.

Like the other passengers on the two-hour cut price flight, the couple, who have been married for 20 years, were not offered a meal on the aeroplane, just crisps, biscuits and

hot and cold drinks. It is the second time the couple have saved money on airline flights. Last week's Register of Members' Interests disclosed that the Straw family obtained an upgrade to club class on their British Airways flights to and from Delhi over Christmas, saving them £8280.

Mr Straw, 52, who has been an MP since 1979, and his wife, who is the second most senior civil servant in the Department of Health, enjoy a comfortable lifestyle. Mrs Straw, 49, earns between £75,210 and £109,420 as director of resources and service. They own three houses, including the family home in a fashionable square in London.

Straw back to face a new outcry

Continued from page 1

year after an initial report found weaknesses. While Mr Baxendale stood at the despatch box, Mr Straw and his wife Alice, a senior civil servant at the Department of Health, were in the middle of a flight to the French Riviera.

The couple bought their easyJet budget flight tickets in December, at a cost of £39 each way instead of £129, but chose not to change it despite the airline allowing passengers to change their flights for £10 plus the difference in seat prices.

Instead, they caught the 10.45am easyJet flight from Luton Airport to Nice, only informing a handful of Whitehall officials where they were going.

In a direct message to the black community, Tony Blair will today tell the *New Nation* newspaper that Britain is lagging behind the United States in its treatment of ethnic minorities.

"In all honesty, I don't think I can say that enough has been done to improve race relations in the UK," he says.

Meanwhile the Bishop of Stepney, the Rt Rev Dr John Sentamu, who was one of Sir Williams's inquiry team, said it took full responsibility for including information details in the report's appendices.

Russian threat will cost RAF £1bn for new missile

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE EDITOR

THE Ministry of Defence will spend £1 billion to replace one of the missiles selected for the RAF's Eurofighter in order to counter the threat of a new Russian air-to-air missile.

Western intelligence services have warned that the new Russian missile will be faster and have a longer range than the medium-range air-to-air missile (AMRAAM) to be fitted to the Eurofighter. The RAF is

buying 232 Eurofighters at a cost of £15 billion. The first are due to come into service in 2002.

Although a cash shortage has stopped work on the new Russian missile, it is feared that countries that have Russian fighters, such as China and India, may help fund the programme. Intelligence services believe that it will take four years to finish developing the missile.

The British and other European defence ministries still try to stay ahead of Russian weapons technology because Moscow sells its arms to

an increasing number of foreign customers. Defence sources stressed that the Eurofighter would still have a more sophisticated radar than the best Russian fighters, as well as better defensive systems and electronic warfare equipment.

However, the potential threat posed by the Russian missile is being taken so seriously that the Government is to approve the development of a superior weapon. The MoD is this week expected to ask for final bids for a missile that will be able to hit a target at least 70 miles away.

The range of AMRAAM is only about 20 miles. The contract is expected to be awarded during the summer.

The choice to be made is between a European collaboration involving, among others, British Aerospace and GEC, and an American system developed by the Raytheon company, makers of the AMRAAM.

The European missile, called Meteor, would not be in operation until about 2007, five years after Eurofighter comes into service. Raytheon is offering an interim weapon sys-

tem based on AMRAAM which could be ready by 2004 and a more advanced missile, comparable to the Meteor, about three years later.

The European consortium has dismissed Raytheon's interim missile as "inadequate".

The Government is being warned that if it chooses the Raytheon weapon, it could put at risk export sales of the Eurofighter because Congress in Washington has the power to veto the sale of any aircraft armed with an American missile.

Sources in the European consorti-

um said the Meteor would have a significantly better performance than the existing AMRAAM, using a German-designed ramjet propulsion system. They said the motor of the AMRAAM only functioned at top speed for about seven seconds, after which the missile began to slow down, reducing its "killing" ability at the far end of its maximum range.

In recent clashes over Iraq, Iraqi MIG jets were able to outrun AMRAAMs launched by American fighters.

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Heading the ball is fool's game, says GP

By IAN MURRAY
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

HEADING the ball outside the penalty area should be banned to protect football players from brain injury, according to a GP who advises a league club.

David Kernick, medical officer to Exeter City, says that a rule change is needed immediately as evidence mounts that repeated heading may cause mental decline.

Writing in *The British Journal of General Practice*, published today, Dr Kernick says it is estimated that there are over a million regular soccer players in Britain alone. In view of the huge numbers active in the sport round the world, if heading the ball caused even a slight amount of brain damage there would be significant public health consequences.

Although the dangers of serious head injury while playing the game are recognised, there is conflicting evidence about whether heading the ball is hazardous.

A benefits tribunal in Scotland last year rejected an appeal for compensation by Billy McPhail, a former Celtic star, who claimed that his pre-senile dementia was caused by frequently heading heavy leather balls. He scored a hat-trick of headers when Celtic beat Rangers 7-1 in the 1957 Scottish Cup Final and Sir Tom Finney, giving evidence on his behalf, told the tribunal: "Billy was outstanding in the air... There's got to be a link between heading these balls and problems in later life."

A recent survey using brain scans on professional Norwegian players found they did suffer real neurophysiological impairment. Another study of Norwegian amateur players published in *The Lancet* also found subtle changes in their ability to reason.

The Football Association's medical committee is to start a career-long monitoring programme of 15 apprentices to see if heading the ball causes permanent damage. They will be reviewed every five years.

Dr Kernick says that it will be difficult to obtain clear evidence, but the latest studies do imply that heading poses a danger. He accepts that it would be impossible to ban heading altogether because it is an essential part of the game and "offers an important dimension of play, particularly around the goalmouth".

However, because of the risks, he argues that a compromise may be acceptable. "There can be few global health proposals that cost nothing, are easy to implement and have the potential to confer benefit on such a large number of people," he said.



The bi-monthly magazine will have a readership of 10,000 but the advertisements are aimed at the elite with seven-figure transfer fees rather than the less affluent world outside the Premier League

Title for men with world at their feet

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE first lifestyle magazine for professional footballers has been launched, filled with glossy advertisements for fast cars, country mansions and luxury yachts.

The Players' Journal is distributed free to an elite of 1,000 men with a combined earning power of about £36 million, most of it highly disposable.

The advertisements tempt the Premiership's finest with playthings such as a yacht which cruises the Caribbean for \$87,500 a week, and a Fiat Audelcar car, which does 0-60 in 6.2 seconds and has a top speed of 153mph. For the less playful, there is a modern mansion with almost as many bedrooms, costing £1.9 million.

They are also adverts to attract the wives and girlfriends who help to spend the seven-figure transfer fees and bonuses.

"Footballers do it by numbers," says the advertisement for Classic Nouveau Registrations, which offers personalised number plates such as FAS 7, 60 GO and MSNEY, with prices up to £99,500.

There are lots of glossy colour pictures, mainly action shots of famous players from Bobby Charlton to Michael Owen, in the 130 pages of the bimonthly produced by the Professional Footballers Association. The cover boy is David Beckham.

The articles give an idea of the tribulations of a rich and famous footballer's life. A section headed "Can I thump him?" contains five pages of advice about how to tackle nosy reporters and photographers. A sports lawyer writes: "Apart from the fleeting moment of pleasure that it may give, hitting a member of the press or a photographer will almost certainly result in an action being taken against you."

The Health and Fitness section has an introduction to the hamstring, complete with pictures of a masked surgeon, players being stretched away in agony, and Alan Shearer warming up. (Need issue your pulse and what it's telling you.)

An article headlined "Villas go top" gives tips on how to arrange a sunshine break in a remote villa, because "luxury, privacy and independence score highly in your list of holiday priorities".

Another feature asks: "What sort of player is the ad man's dream?" After five pages of consideration, the author concludes: "Blend the skill and application of Kenny Dalglish and the flair and high profile of George Best, and you have the ad man's dream."

The Players' Journal itself is the real ad man's dream. The magazine is being delivered through the doors of all PFA members, and is the only way to target this highly lucrative niche market. The readership is about 10,000.

Not everything is decadence and pleasure in a footballer's world. HSBC Personal Disability Insurance has an advertisement showing a player on a stretcher with the ironic headline "A great future".

Next to the "Can I thump him?" feature is an advertisement for automated gates, and a few pages later is one for bodyguards.

Ken Bruce, chief executive of Futures In Sport, which has taken a two-page spread for management training courses, thinks *The Players' Journal* may have too many pages.

The majority of footballers seem to have a very low boredom threshold," he said. "They don't seem the sort of people to sit down and read a 130-odd page magazine."

While it is easy to imagine a footballer's girlfriend such as Victoria "Posh Spice" Adams browsing through the advertisements, the magazine may leave a Third Division player struggling to pay the mortgage feeling a little cold.

Michael Tait, whose Property Hunters service finds homes for people who are rich and busy, said it was a "fair assumption" that none of his clients played for Leyton Orient or Barnet.

Shearer scores over the tycoons

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

ALAN SHEARER, the England and Newcastle striker, is reported to be Britain's highest earning footballer, with £7.5 million a year including a long-term £20 million boot deal with Umbro.

The wages and salaries bill of the Premier League was £218 million, according to the latest Deloitte Touche survey, while even the journeymen of the Third Division received £18 million.

Footballers' earnings have been rising rapidly, by more than 25 per cent a

year, and the figure for this season is likely to be considerably higher.

The Deloitte Touche survey put the total wage bill of the 92 league clubs at £364 million, but that excludes the sponsorship deals which can increase a player's cash earnings fivefold. Well-known players from all divisions often have to pay nothing for luxuries as sponsors lavish them with designer boots, socks, shirts and even sports cars.

Manchester United spent £23 million on salaries, Newcastle United £17 million, Arsenal and Liverpool £15 million each.

Hartlepool United spent £503,000. Paul Gascoigne is reputed to earn £13.5 million a year. David Beckham £9.4 million, Michael Owen £7 million.

The basic salary of a chief executive in the FTSE 100 is £428,000, although that is boosted to £617,000 with his annual bonus and long-term incentive plan. Charles Brink of the global investment service AMWES earns £2.5 million a year. The Prime Minister gets £102,750 on top of his MP's salary of £48,000 (although Tony Blair chooses to draw just over £100,000).

Spice babies 'at risk of deafness'

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Spice Girls babies are in danger of being born slightly deaf, new research suggests. The children's ears are at risk because of the noise level at events performed by their mothers.

Michelle Brown, known as "Scary Spice", gave birth to a daughter last week and "Posh Spice" Victoria Adams is expecting a baby within a couple of months.

Researchers have found that even in the womb, such noise can permanently damage a child's hearing. Unborn babies can also be partially deafened if their mothers move the lawn ride in power boats or are exposed to prolonged noise at their workplace.

"While we don't have direct measurements, we recommend that pregnant women avoid such noise exposure if possible," Professor Kenneth Gershon, of Florida University, wrote in the National Hearing Conservation Society at Atlanta, Georgia. "The rule of thumb is

that if you have to speak loudly to be understood, that noise environment is potentially dangerous to your hearing and your infant's hearing."

Linda Frazier, of the University of Kansas, said that human studies had shown that the loss of hearing among children of women who worked in noisy places was enough to make it difficult for them to hear teachers at school and possibly cause learning difficulties.

As many as 640 children born in Britain each year have a significant hearing impairment. The National Deaf Children's Society said that the problem was not noticed in half of the children until they were 18 months old, and that it was not noticed diagnosed in a quarter of them until they were 7. Thousands more suffer hearing loss through illness or accident. As many as a quarter of five-year-olds have lost hearing as a result of ear infections.

Thin Red Line defies US attack

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

WAR is being waged over the title of the American film *The Thin Red Line*, which went on general release this weekend. Concern has been expressed that the phrase which described British troops in the Crimean War will be lost to Hollywood's definition in the minds of young moviegoers.

The director Terrence Malick's three-hour war epic, starring Sean Penn and Nick Nolte, tells of an American attempt to capture the Pacific island of Guadalcanal from the Japanese forces in 1942.

The film's publicity attributes the title's origin to an old saying from the American Mid-West: "There is only a thin red line between the sane and the mad." Britons hold that the phrase originated with *The Times* war correspondent Sir William Howard Russell, who used it to describe the 93rd Sutherland Highlanders at the Battle of Balaklava on October 25, 1854.

Forming a two-deep defensive line to repel the Russian advance, he said in his dispatch that their scarlet tunics appeared as a "thin red streak topped with a line of steel".

The phrase "the thin red line" was later attributed to him and the regiment, now the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, adopted it as its own. Despite the regiment abandoning red tunics for dark green jackets and Black Watch tartan kilts, the phrase remains the title of the regimental magazine. The event inspired one of the best known 19th-century battle paintings, *The Thin Red Line* by Robert Gibb, the Scottish artist.

Tim Hall, of *The Thin Red Line*, a shirtmaker in Savile Row, London, which supplies the military, said yesterday: "We are proud of the historical and British connotations of our name and naturally it is of some concern to us that as a result of the Terrence Malick film the phrase will be widely misunderstood."

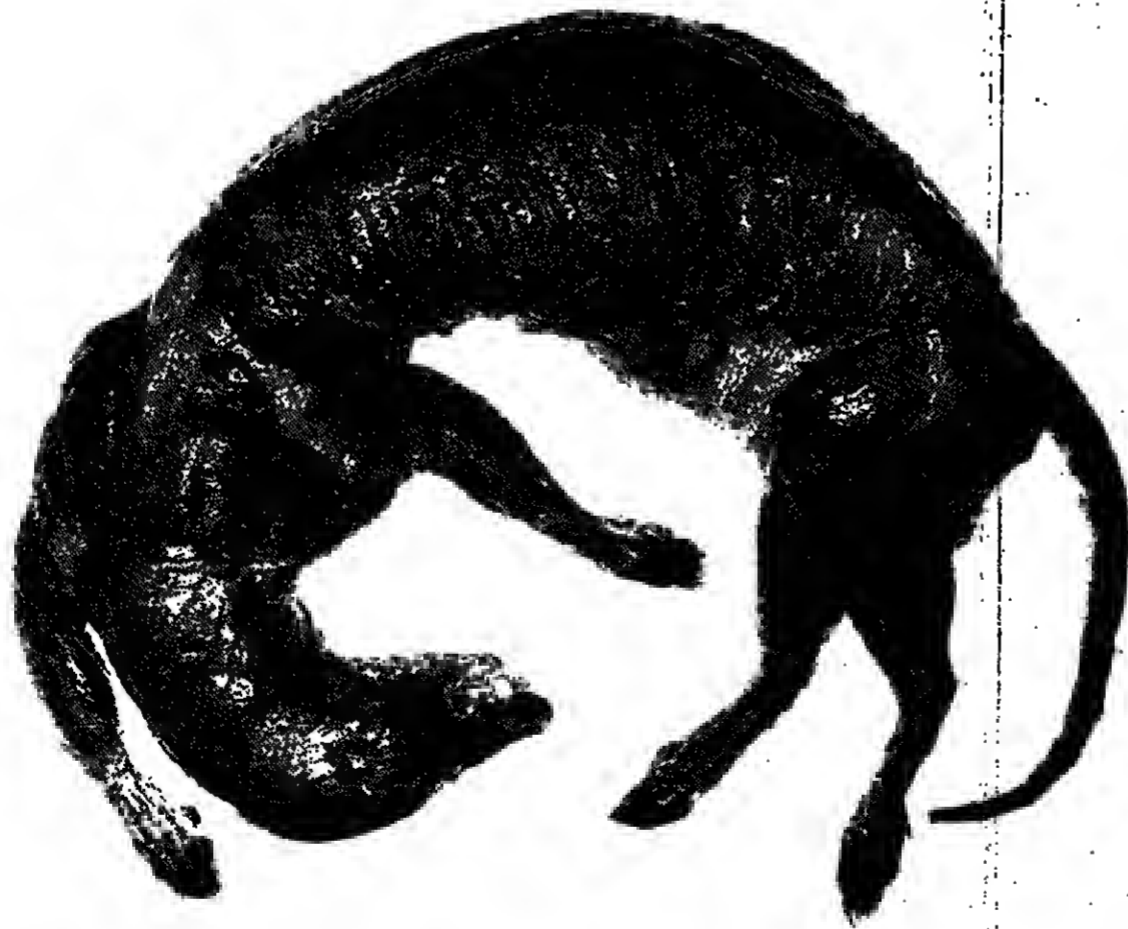
While it is easy to imagine a footballer's girlfriend such as Victoria "Posh Spice" Adams browsing through the advertisements, the magazine may leave a Third Division player struggling to pay the mortgage feeling a little cold.

Michael Tait, whose Property Hunters service finds homes for people who are rich and busy, said it was a "fair assumption" that none of his clients played for Leyton Orient or Barnet.

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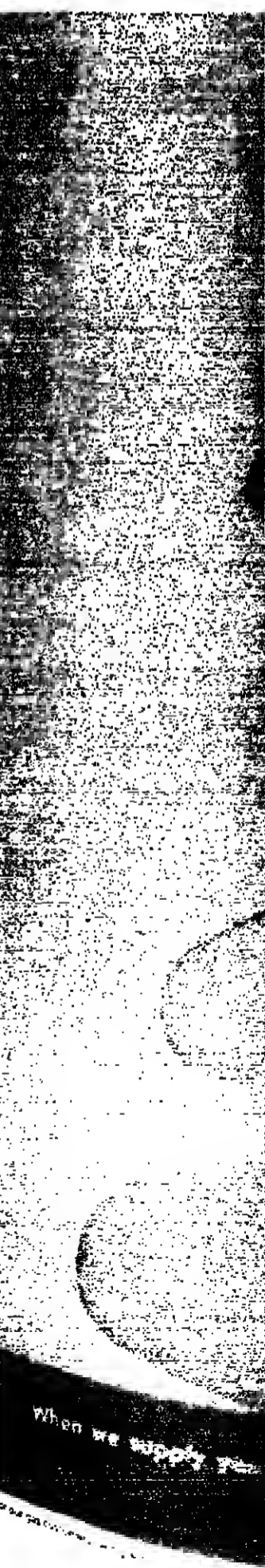
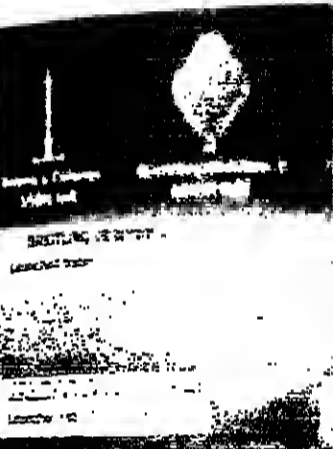
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مخزن الدمل

Fight
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Rivals o



Fight fan dies as riot breaks out after bout

BY MICHAEL PATERSON

A BOXING fan died after falling under the wheels of a coach while trying to escape fighting that broke out after a Commonwealth title bout. Violence raged around the ambulance as they tried to save the man's life.

The 31-year-old was carried into the coach for treatment but rioters, one swinging a chain above his head, forced their way inside. Windows were smashed and passengers assaulted while the ambulance men attempted to revive him.

Fighting broke out between supporters after the Commonwealth middleweight title bout between Jason Lewis and Paul Jones at Oldham Sports Centre on Saturday. The conflict spilled out into the car park where the man was fatally injured. He will be named today.

The ambulance men, who asked not to be named, spoke of their horror at the fighting. One, who has 15 years experience, said: "It was the sheer level of violence that shocked us. It was a baying mob. Any-

one else could have run away or defended themselves but we were there with a job to do. We were there to save someone's life and we couldn't just leave."

His colleague, in his 40s, said: "We are used to dealing [with situations] where violence does occur, but not of this magnitude."

The man who died had travelled from London in the coach to watch the fight between Jones, 32, of Sheffield, and Matthews, 28, from Hackney, East London. A sell-out crowd of about 1,000 saw Matthews win after Jones was disqualified by the referee, John Coyle, in the seventh round for continuous holding.

Greater Manchester Police are to examine the role that alcohol played in the night's events. Some witnesses reported that many fans had been drinking.

A spokesman for Frank Warren's Sports Network, which promoted the show, said that no comment would be made as the violence had not hap-

pened in the boxing arena. The British Boxing Board of Control said: "We deeply regret this tragic loss of life of a young man who had come to enjoy himself at a boxing tournament. There had been no trouble inside the hall and the boxing that had taken place had been enjoyable and robustly supported, apart from a disappointing main event."

Violence at boxing bouts is becoming more regular. The most recent outbreak was last July, when fans of Michael Smyth threw chairs and punches as he lost to Geoff McCreech in a British welterweight title bout in Reading.

Some bouts may attract football hooligans. The Football Intelligence Unit of the National Criminal Intelligence Service has attended boxing matches, notably the light-middleweight contest between Robert McCracken, a Birmingham City fan, and Steve Foster, a Manchester United fan, in 1994.

Boxing, page 38

Murdered girl's body found in shallows

BY MICHAEL HARVEY

THE body of a 15-year-old girl was found in a lake by two boys skateboarding at the weekend. She had been murdered.

The body of Rachel Glenn was discovered in the shallows at Charnwood Water in Loughborough, Leicestershire. She had disappeared on Wednesday.

Police confirmed that Rachel died from drowning but said there were signs of a struggle and that head injuries may have been a contributory factor in her death.

The area was sealed off by police yesterday as divers searched the lake for clues. Officers also searched surrounding parkland.

Detective Superintendent Bryan Warraker, who is leading the investigation, said Rachel had last been seen by friends on Wednesday but was only reported missing by her mother on Friday. He said: "It was not unusual for Rachel to go off with her friends. On this occasion we were contacted when all the other checks her parents had done failed to locate her."

Police arrested an 18-year-old local youth yesterday in connection with the murder. He was being questioned at Loughborough police station.



Devon Aoki, the 16-year-old London schoolgirl who has become a top model

Schoolgirl is a hit in fashion world

BY DEBORAH BRETT
IN MILAN
AND CLAUDIA JOSEPH

DONATELLA VERSACE unveiled her Versus line last night at Alcatraz, the Milan nightclub, with the help of her new muse Devon.

Measuring in at a mere 5ft 6in, Devon Aoki, the 16-year-old London schoolgirl, is even shorter than Kate Moss, who at 5ft 7in was an exception to the catwalk height rule of at least 5ft 10in. With long light-brown hair and hazel eyes, Devon has caught the eye of the fashion photographers Jürgen Teller and Steven Meisel, who featured her in Italian Vogue, and has landed the Chanel and Versus advertising campaigns as well as being a favourite of the designer Yohji Yamamoto.

She fits in modelling around her schoolwork and shot the Versus advertisements last week before returning to London to attend lessons for the rest of the week.

Sarah Doukas, managing director of the model agency Storm, signed Devon after Miss Moss, another client, spotted her in an American magazine. Ms Doukas, who knew Devon's parents previously, said: "She is one of the most successful girls in the world at the moment but is also very academic. The work she has done is exceptional."

It is no longer seen as a hindrance for shorter girls to appear on the catwalk, as clothes are always fitted to each model beforehand.

The search for a new face, a representation of the look a label wants to achieve, has gathered pace to the point where a new muse is now proclaimed every season.

Devon, whose mother accompanies her on trips, seems unphased by all the attention. As a teenager she is more enamoured with skateboarding and bands than her modelling career.

Last night, after-show entertainment was provided by the Grammy award-winning Lenny Kravitz, who took to the stage for a one-hour concert.

Rivals on tail of Briton who designed their balloon

FROM HELEN RUMBELOW
IN CHATEAU D'OEX

THE record-breaking balloonists Andy Elson and Colin Prescott are facing a challenge from a craft due to be launched in Switzerland today. It would be the first time two round-the-world attempts have been pitted against each other in the air.

Bertrand Picard, a Swiss psychiatrist, and Brian Jones, a British ballooning instructor, are attempting lift-off in Breitling Orbiter 3. Although Mr Elson and Mr Prescott have more than ten days' start, they are handicapped by being unable to catch the fast winds over China.

All British-registered balloons were banned from China after Richard Bran-

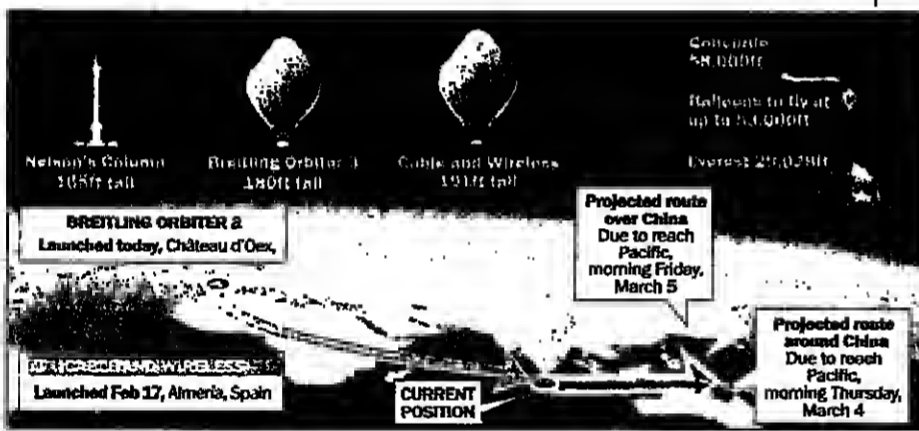
son trespassed into its air space at Christmas. This has cost the Cable and Wireless team nearly a week as it made a detour. Mr Elson and Mr Prescott, who beat the world record of ten days in the air over Burma on Saturday, are moving at a frustrating 25mph as they try to clear the Bay of Bengal without drifting north to China.

They predict they will reach the Pacific by Thursday at the earliest. Mr Picard and Mr Jones aim to tail them into the Pacific by Friday and may overtake shortly afterwards if their winds are favourable.

Mr Elson has built his own possible Nemesis: the Breitling team is taking advantage of his balloon design from when he was its engineer and pilot last year. He spent nine days aloft with Mr Pic-

card, an attempt also thwarted by a Chinese ban. Although they are both balloon fanatics — Mr Picard is the grandson of Auguste Piccard, who invented the modern balloon capsule — there was a personal clash and Mr Elson left Breitling soon after their crash landing last year.

His consolation in the present rivalry is that he left the Swiss team without the expertise to work his unique kerosene fuel system. The Breitling crew admits that Mr Elson's invention "offered an enormous advantage" but has been forced to switch back to the more conventional propane. This means that the Cable and Wireless team are carrying 25 days' fuel while Breitling has enough only for 21 days, because propane is heavier to store.



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TV presenter is critical after police accident

BY MICHAEL HARVEY

THE award-winning broadcaster Sheena McDonald remained in a critical condition yesterday after being hit by a police van.

The 44-year-old journalist suffered serious head injuries when she was knocked down just before midnight on Friday in Islington, North London, as the van was answering an emergency call.

Doctors at the University College Hospital in Euston said that Ms McDonald, a veteran presenter of *Channel 4 News*, *The World This Week* and BBC's *On the Record*, remained in an intensive care unit.

Her family was last night maintaining a bedside vigil at the hospital. Despite her injuries, it is understood that there are no immediate plans for Ms McDonald to undergo surgery.

Ms McDonald began her career as a newsreader with BBC Radio Scotland. She spent eight years at Scottish Television before moving to London to begin work for Channel 4.

Stuart Cosgrove, the Scottish-based head of programmes at Channel 4, said yesterday: "Sheena is a great stalwart of Channel 4 and an important broadcaster. All our

thoughts are with her and we hope she makes a speedy recovery."

Yesterday Alan Little, Ms McDonald's boyfriend, joined her family at the hospital after flying in from Moscow, where he is the BBC's correspondent. Mr Little, a former war reporter who has won awards for his coverage of the Gulf War and the war in Bosnia, has been with Ms McDonald for four years.

Gordon Brown, who was romantically linked with Ms McDonald while they were at Edinburgh University in the 1970s and again in 1994, is also being kept informed of her condition. The Chancellor, who



McDonald suffered severe head injuries

spent the weekend in Scotland with his fiancée, Sarah Macaulay, remains a close friend.

Reports emerged in 1994 that the pair were seeing each other again before Mr Brown began his relationship with Ms Macaulay, a public relations company executive, later that year.

Ms McDonald, who chaired the judging panel for the Orange Fiction Prize last year, was knocked down in St John's Street, Islington. The police van, which had its blue lights flashing and siren on, was answering an emergency call to a fight on nearby Holloway Road.

Scotland Yard said that the driver, a 27-year-old constable, had been suspended from driving and that an investigation launched as part of standard procedure.

Both the driver and his 30-year-old colleague were unhurt.

Thirty-eight people, including six police officers, died in accidents involving police vehicles in London over the six years to 1998. During the year 1997/98 there were 5,710 police accidents. Police officers were found to be at least partially at fault in more than 2000 of them.



A young Carry On fan admiring a poster of Kenneth Williams. His one-time co-star, Patsy Rowlands, said that the films "didn't have a deep meaning"

BY HANNAH BETTS

A NEW generation is rebelling against new Labour's prissy nanny state by crying "Oooh, Matriarchy!" and embracing the 31 politically incorrect films of the *Carry On* canon.

The academic Andy Medhurst told a conference at the National Film Theatre — a London venue better known for screening the classic films of Andrei Tarkovsky, Krzysztof Kieślowski and Akira Kurosawa — that the comedy classics had found themselves a new audience.

"In Blair's Britain we're always being told to be decent, upstanding citizens," said Dr Medhurst, a senior lecturer in media studies at Sussex Uni-

New generation falls for Carry On classics

versity. "It's no surprise that people turn to something that says 'Well, let's get drunk and have a bit of a grope and a laugh'."

"What used to be the preserve of a working-class audience has acquired a cult status with a young, middle-class, clientele."

"In the 1960s middle-class youth held the films in contempt. One Saturday night they'd all be off to the

stead Everyman to see the new Antonioni. Now there's been a post-modern shift and suddenly *Carry Ons* have what we might call cultural capital."

Dr Medhurst was joined on stage by the *Carry On* actress Patsy Rowlands and photography director Alan Hume. Both said that their new fans look for too much meaning in the films. "Students do read so many things into it," said Ms Rowlands. "I

get letters asking 'What were you thinking when you said that line?' The truth is I was probably thinking about what I'd be picking up from Sainsbury's on the way home. It didn't have a deep meaning."

But Andrew Spearman, 25, defended fans of his generation. "I don't think it's something we take too seriously. It's just a bit of fun — a Sunday afternoon thing that we all grew up with. There is an element of ironic appreciation, of course, but I wouldn't say it's the main factor."

□ In May, Pinewood studios will cash in on the trend with its first official *Carry On Day* — a *Carry On*-style event involving coach parties and a buffet lunch.

Advertisers not amused by sitcom's failure

£500,000 for first 2000 slot

BY CAROL MIDGLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

BY CAROL MIDGLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

ITV efforts to attract the viewers with a comedy based on a successful American series have failed to impress public and critics alike. *Days Like These*, which had been hoped would end ITV's reputation for mediocre sitcoms, may now be scrapped.

Based on the top-ranking American series *That '70s Show*, it was made under the auspices of the US team Carney-Werner, producers of *Roseanne*. It is set in 1976 and centres on a group of teenagers trying to circumvent the authority of their parents. In the American version they live in Wisconsin; in the British version, Luton. But critics say the concept does not work on this side of the Atlantic.

David Liddiment, ITV's director of programmes, commissioned an initial 12 episodes with an option for ten more. However, it is now likely that the second batch will be cancelled and sources say the series may even be dropped before the end of its current run.

Pressure is building on ITV executives, as advertisers were promised the show would win audiences of up to 10 million. Instead, fewer than six million people have tuned in.

The show, shown on Friday evenings, is so far absent from ITV's schedule for March 12 — when BBC1 broadcasts *Comic Relief*. Insiders say executives fear its ratings may collapse when it is pitted against the popular fundraiser, and an edition of *You've Been Framed!* is to be shown instead.

An ITV source said: "It's difficult to see how it can last at this rate. The figures have dropped as low as four million at some points in the programme and the advertisers are not going to stand for that. In commercial television you have to deliver the goods but so far *Days Like These* has failed to do that."

It is not the first time that attempts to anglicise an American show have failed, although the idea has worked well in the opposite direction.

COMPANIES bidding to become the last television advertiser in this millennium and the first in the next could have to pay up to £1 million for the privilege.

Experts predict that a 30-second national slot either side of midnight could cost more than £500,000, compared with a usual peak-time rate of £100,000.

One advertiser, Abbey National, is known to have approached ITV stations three years ago to buy up the first-in-2000 slot. Another contender for the opening commercial is Whitehall's publicity machine, the Central Office of Information.

Granada Media Sales, which handles advertising for five ITV areas, has been approached by about a dozen companies interested in securing advertisements.

Jo Brinkman, publicity officer, said: "A lot of people turn on their TVs to see Big Ben chime in the New Year and there is a certain amount of kudos about being first in 2000. We obviously want to maximise revenue as well as being fair."

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1 March 1999	£100,000	£249,999	6.45%	6.60%
	£250,000	£999,999	6.80%	6.95%
	£1 million		6.90%	7.05%

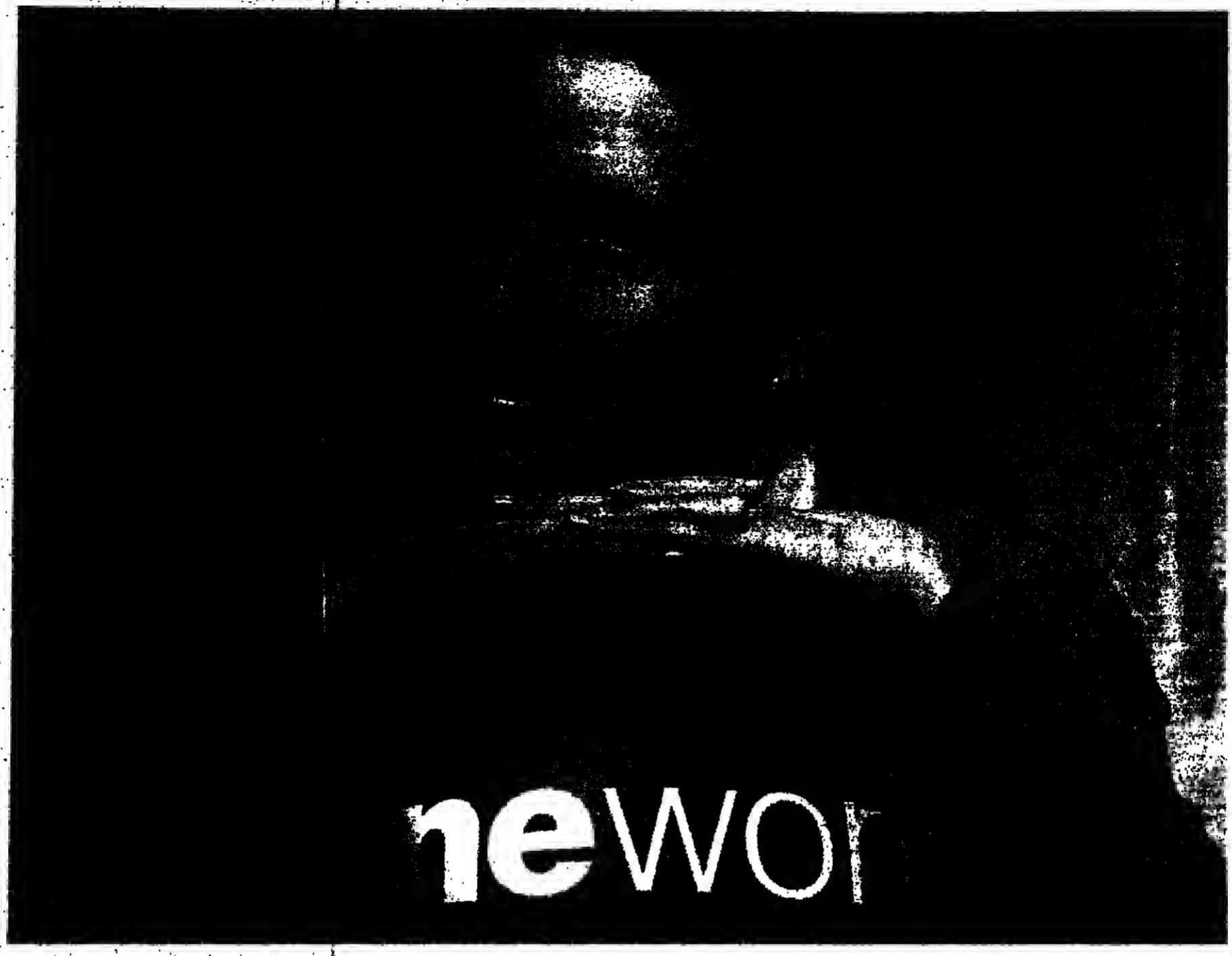
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Hague to seek ways of saving the pound

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

WILLIAM HAGUE hardened the Conservative Party's anti-euro stance yesterday by announcing a policy commission to investigate keeping the pound and withdrawing from cross-party preparations for the single currency.

He warned senior Tories to campaign for the party's candidates rather than members of the new Pro-Euro Conservative Party in the forthcoming European elections. Under pressure because of poor poll ratings and further signs of Tory divisions on the issue, Mr Hague declared that anyone failing to back official candidates would be "out on their ear".

Kenneth Clarke and Michael Heseltine have not denied reports that they met Tony Blair and Gordon Brown in advance of last week's publication of the National Changeover Plan for the euro. It is unlikely, however, that they would back non-official candidates.

Mr Hague's announcement of a policy commission, expected to be headed by a former Cabinet minister and containing economists and City experts, showed that he is ready to put himself at the head of the anti-euro campaign.

He said that the commission would assess how Britain could take fullest advantage of its own currency. "I'm going to make sure that the facts and the information and the debate is there, to make sure people really do have a choice."

He added in a reference to today's introduction of the New Europe group: "Other people in other parties, like David Owen, are going to join me in making sure that the country has a choice. I'm very happy to be on that side of the argument, so let battle commence."

Mr Hague said the Conservatives would withdraw from the cross-party committee that

will oversee the National Changeover Plan examining how the euro could replace the pound, announced by Mr Blair last Tuesday. "The nature of that committee has changed. It is now to prepare for the introduction of the euro in Britain and to do so without having sought the consent of the voters... I think that is wrong," he told BBC Radio 4's *The World This Weekend*.

David Davis, who until yesterday was the Tory member on the committee, said that it was about little more than trying to convince the public that the euro was inevitable.

"The Government should not attempt to pre-empt the decision of the British people," he said. "It is constitutionally unsound and democratically improper. It is now clear that the Government's intention is that the pound is to perish. I will have no part of this."

□ The Pro-Euro Conservative Party said that it would field at least five candidates in the summer's European elections. Its leaders John Stevens and Brendan Donnelly will be joined by two more former Tory MEPs, Paul Howell, who represented Norfolk for 15 years until 1994, and Andrew Pearce, Member for Cheshire West and Wirral for ten years until 1999, and a former journalist, Richard Bassett. Mr Pearce resigned from the Conservative list of candidates for the North West to join the new party, Mr Stevens said: "We are announcing our decision to stand as candidates in this year's European elections to assure Conservative voters that they will have a choice in June between the Euroscepticism offered by William Hague's candidates and a positive attitude towards Europe, in particular towards the euro."

Peter Riddell, page 20
Leading article and
Letters, page 21



Lord Owen, once backed by Lord Sainsbury of Turville, left, is now supported by Lord Sainsbury of Preston Candover

Trouble is in store as euro splits the Sainsbury family

THE emergence today of New Europe, the group opposed to Britain joining the single currency, confirms the political split in one of Britain's richest families.

One of the financial backers of the campaign is Lord (John) Sainsbury of Preston Candover, cousin of Lord (David) Sainsbury of Turville, the Science Minister, who gave up the post of chairman of the supermarket giant last year, having taken over from his older cousin John. When he joined Tony Blair's Government, the 391-store group was left without a Sainsbury family member for the first time in its 129-year history.

The dynasty has long been associated with politics. John's brother, Sir Tim Sainsbury, was a minister in the previous Tory Government. Sir Tim's son-in-law is Shaun Woodward, Conservative MP for Witney, and a former Tory spin doctor.

But for David Sainsbury the birth of New Europe, under Lord Owen, may be an unhappy event. He, after all, is a close friend of David Owen and helped to

Minister will not be happy that cousin backs New Europe, writes Philip Webster

bankroll the Social Democratic Party in its early days; pro-Europeanism was one of the party's guiding policies.

With the demise of the SDP and Labour's shift to electability, David Sainsbury became close to Mr Blair, gave large sums to Labour Party, and ended up in the Government, in which he serves as an enthusiastic Europhile.

His political rift with his cousin will surprise few observers of the retail trade. The word has long been that they do not get on. John Sainsbury, a senior executive for a lengthy period during which it overtook Marks & Spencer as Britain's

most profitable retailer, has been said to be a hard-headed autocrat. He was known for pacing his stores, checking that the produce was fresh, the cans stacked properly, and living the maxim he inherited from his father: "Retail is detail."

David, by contrast, was always regarded as quiet, thoughtful and approachable. He was quoted at the time of his succession as saying of his cousin: "He loses his temper and I don't."

David's father, Lord Sainsbury of Drury Lane, the grandson of the founders of the chain, died last year at the age of 90. He too was involved in politics, standing as a Liberal candidate, joining Labour and then the SDP.

The Sainsburys are proud of their record of supporting political initiatives. Their tastes are various. Last year a one-off edition of *Margaret Today* thanked "James Sainsbury for his very generous donation." James is the son of Sir Tim. His sister Camilla is married to Mr Woodward.

TRADING PLACES



David Owen



David Sainsbury



John Sainsbury

THE OPPOSITION

Democracy Movement
The multinational businessman Paul Sykes formed movement in 1997. Members of Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party and is chairman. At "Democracy Day" this month supporters will be asked to "give a pound to save the pound".

Business for Sterling
Heavyweight organisation that will marshal anti-euro forces in City and business world. Cross-party, fronted by Lord Marsh.

Global Britain
Think-tank with uncompromising anti-European attitude, founded last year by the Tory peer Lord Pearson of Rannoch. Believes in complete withdrawal from Europe.

Europe Group
Created to support philosophy of stridently anti-Brussels speech that Baroness Thatcher delivered in Bruges in 1988.

Conservative Against a Federalist Europe
Conservative group backed by MPs such as Teresa Gorman who defied John Major and were excluded from Tory ranks in Parliament.

Europe Foundation
Run by the Conservative Tory MP Bill Cash. Publishes monthly magazine *Europe's Journal*.

European Nationalist Group
Created by Sir Michael Spicer, focuses on mobilising political opposition to euro. Based in London as organisation to bring together European right-wing MPs from other European countries.

European Nationalist Party
Recently organised its roots in No Campaign set up during Common Market membership referendum. Run by Lord Stoddart of Swinton and Sir Richard Gledhill, Tory backbencher.

European Nationalist Party
Firstly seen as a protest since departure of its leader Alan Sheed. Organised to campaign for referendum.

European Nationalist Party
Organised to campaign for referendum.

European Nationalist Party
Organised to campaign for referendum.

European Nationalist Party
Organised to campaign for referendum.

THE SUPPORTERS

European Nationalist Party
Organised to campaign for referendum.

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NEW EUROPE

New Europe
A new group of politicians and journalists that believes in pro-Europeanism. The former Conservative Lord Owen, Lord Sainsbury of Turville, and Sir Tim Sainsbury, former Conservative MP for Witney, are among its members. It is chaired by Lord Sainsbury of Preston Candover and Lord Sainsbury of Turville.

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Barclays Instant Savings Account	N/A**	2.47%	2.47%	2.73%	2.98%
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مكتبة الامم المتحدة

Border row is putting Rock out of business

THE Spanish border guard amused his colleague with an animated joke, swapped cigarettes and slowly sipped his coffee as the line of vehicles waiting to leave Gibraltar stretched further than he could see.

At the front of the queue Edward Franks had been waiting five hours to cross the frontier into Spain. Usually this is a formality but the self-employed businessman said: "Spain appears to be at war with Gibraltar and nobody in Britain seems to have noticed."

When Mr Franks, 46, loses patience and asks the grinning guards to let him pass, they order his family out of the car. One guard takes out his pen-knife and jabs at the upholstery of the Franks' new Audi, looking for contraband and drugs. The other frisks Dany Franks, 7, who is forced to remove his jacket and put his hands in the air.

The search takes 20 minutes, during which the queue to leave the Rock grows still longer. Gibraltar officials weave between the cars encouraging drivers to complain and giving out the telephone numbers of the Spanish and British politicians whom they blame.

It began with a spat over fishing rights. Gibraltar's Chief Minister, Peter Caruana, thought that he had settled the problem with the Spanish

Families on both sides say their livelihoods are under threat, reports Daniel McGrory

fishing crews, but the Spanish Foreign Minister, Abel Matutes, complained that this was his and Robin Cook's job. A little local difficulty then escalated into a revival of the conflict over the near 300-year British sovereignty of the Rock, and Spain made a point by tightening up its border controls.

Across the wire fence of no man's land, Gerry Monteverde, a complaints officer, makes an unladylike gesture to the diminutive Spanish Civil Guard causing the worst of the hold-up. "They want to starve us into submission and we feel bullied by Madrid and betrayed by London. They accuse everyone in Gibraltar of being drug dealers and tobacco smugglers. But all that happens on the Spanish side of the frontier, not ours," she says.

She points to a group of women in wearing baggy tracksuits, who are busy hiding cartons of cigarettes inside their clothing until they look

like the Michelin man. They waddle through the customs post, waved on by a Spanish guard, to the town of La Linea just 20 yards away.

There a man with slicked-back hair and wraparound sunglasses sits on a wall behind the customs shed, buying as many cartons of cigarettes as the women can carry. He offers bribes of pesetas to a coachload of elderly Britons to join his smuggling run. Several stroll back across to the border kiosk where a packet of 20 costs less than 80p. Three minutes walk away, in Spain, it sells for more than £1.

Ms Monteverde says: "The Spanish guards ignore such flagrant smuggling and instead delay law-abiding workers and tourists on their Government's orders."

The procession of cigarette women continues night and day. More than 1,000 families in La Linea are said to rely on this cigarette smuggling for their only income.

Three thousand people from La Linea legally work on the Rock and are protesting to their own Government that the border restrictions threaten their livelihood. Francisco Manueles, a computer engineer, says he missed three appointments because of the delays. "My Government is costing me money, and my Gibraltar customers will use someone on the Rock if this goes on."



A wait of four hours is common at the border, where Spanish guards conduct exhaustive checks on all travellers

Thirty people a week from La Linea are said to be losing their jobs in Gibraltar and many are having pay docked for arriving late. They are planning a demonstration on Wednesday which could bring the border to a standstill.

The Rock is suffering, too. Shops are deserted, offices close early and the 147 bars packed onto the 2½ square miles complain that daytrippers are staying away in their thousands. Fuming in the front-

ier traffic jam, Alfred Duo, 72, can take no more. "I was born here, but I'm leaving Gibraltar for good because of the bloody-mindedness of my Spanish neighbours, which is getting worse."

There is no shooting in this border skirmish, just obstructive pettiness. Drivers who do not carry a blanket in the boot in case of an accident, as required by Spanish law, may be turned back after waiting hours. Back in the traffic jam,

Ms Monteverde points to where the Gibraltar authorities installed cameras last week to broadcast the Spanish petulance live on the Internet.

Hours later the Spanish retaliated by stringing a 20ft sheet of green canvas between two trees to block the cameras. They plan a more permanent barrier made of aluminium.

"The Berlin Wall has gone but on this frontier of the new free Europe we will have the Aluminium Blockade," says

Charles Collinson, the chief complaints officer, as drivers ask the reason for the delay.

One enterprising tour guide tried to profit from the dispute yesterday. He went across the border to tempt tourists on the Costa to come to photograph the Rock's latest attraction — "stodgy Spanish cops causing Europe's worst traffic jam".

They were ferried back and forth on motorbikes to beat the queue that Gibraltarians fear is without end.

Minister urges Blair to get tough with Spain

By DANIEL MCGRORY

THE Chief Minister of Gibraltar, Peter Caruana, last night urged Tony Blair to "get tough" with Spain over the border blockade.

Mr Blair has arranged an Anglo-Spanish summit for April, but Mr Caruana said the Rock could not wait that long. "Tourism is already down to 20 per cent of what it should be. Who is going to come for a day trip from Spain when it can take seven hours to get across the border?"

"The integrity of our financial centre is being slurred by allegations that we are money launderers... the Foreign Office has applauded our stringent banking and financial laws, but this mud from Spain might stick."

The language on both sides of the border is far from diplomatic. Mr Caruana blames the Spanish Foreign Minister, Abel Matutes, who he says is "a liar, a hypocrite and an economic illiterate".

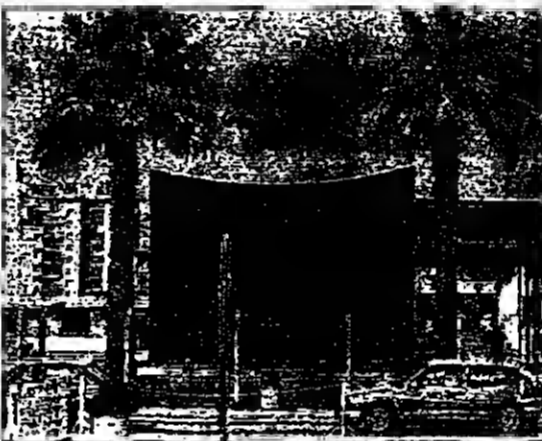
"He says we are parasites who should be eliminated. Language like that hasn't been used in Europe since Nazi Germany."

The dispute concerns proposals sent to Whitehall by Señor Matutes in December 1997 for a new sovereignty deal.

"There was a threat implied from Señor Matutes that if we didn't accept what he thought were very generous sovereignty proposals, there would be an aggressive campaign to bring us to our knees," Mr Caruana said. "I don't lose a minute's sleep thinking Tony Blair is going to give away Gibraltar but perhaps Señor Matutes thinks differently, so the Prime Minister should spell it out: 'We stay British'."



Gibraltar officials set up cameras to broadcast the source of the obstruction on the Internet, but the Spanish threw up a canvas screen. One business not affected by the dispute is the cross-border trade in cigarettes



NET LINKS

<http://frontier.gibraltar.gov> Website of the Gibraltar Frontier showing four-lane traffic and pedestrians queuing to get into Spain
<http://www.gibraltar.gov> The Gibraltar homepage with links to the Gibraltar Tourist Board, Finance Centre and Port
<http://www.self-determination.gi> The website of the Self-determination for Gibraltar Campaign

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the bad news

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Caught in the conservation net

Efforts to save spring salmon include a ban on coraclemen, writes Simon de Bruxelles

THERE is one species more endangered than the occasional spring salmon that makes a daring foray up the River Tywi in South Wales.

The coracle fishermen, who for generations have plied the river in their dry, cork-shell boats, are the unintended victims of well-meaning but probably futile attempts to save the salmon. Just a dozen of the fishermen — largely nocturnal creatures — are left on the Tywi, compared with more than 300 at the turn of the century. Their main catch is the plentiful sea trout, but as their nets could also entangle the early salmon they have been caught in a nationwide ban.

The fishing season will start today, but no one knows how long it will last. The Environment Agency wants to stop salmon fishing until June 1 to give stocks time to recover. As soon as Alun Michael, the Welsh Secretary, signs the new bylaws, the coracle men will have to hang up their nets. With their season cut to two months and no hope of recouping the cost of their £400 annual fishing licence, a 2,000-year-old way of life will end.

Last week, Mike Elias, the leader of Wales's last 25 licensed coracle fishermen, carried his dry boat down to the Tywi for what he fears may be one of the last times. Mr Elias, 48, has been fishing the river since he was 12, as the men in his family have done for generations. By day he is an electrician, but every night during the season he is on the river. Anglers don't like the coraclemen because they fish commercially, and the Environment Agency regards them as an economically irrelevant anachronism. Mr Elias's contention that the tradition is a part of Welsh heritage that should be preserved fell on unsympathetic ears — the agency says that as the coraclemen fish at night there is little chance of tourists seeing them.

The agency also objects to the fibreglass coracles favoured by some fishermen since a dam was built on the Tywi near Llandovery in 1963, lowering the level of the river and making it easier to run aground, and it says that their economic benefit to the region is insignificant. The agency does concede that there are very few early-run salmon in the Tywi — Mr Elias says that five salmon last year, all of them summer fish.

The chain through which the ancient skills are handed down from one generation to the next is already being broken. Peter Hopkins has refused all entreaties from his 15-year-old son, Christopher, to teach him how to fish. "I was born on the quayside



Mike Elias carrying his coracle along the River Tywi in South Wales. "This is the first year since records began in the 1700s that there won't be an Elias on the river," he said.

in Carmarthen with my finger in the river," he said. "The Tywi runs through my blood. I don't want this to get into my son like it has got into me and then to have it taken away from him."

The agency issues just 12 licences for the Tywi, 12 for the Teifi and one for the Taf. Most of the coraclemen have day jobs and fish at night for catches that, if they are lucky, will just cover their expenses. "I work during the day in order to be able to fish. No one could make a living out of it any more," Mr Elias said. "I remember when I used to go out with the old man and we would carry home 50 pounds of fish. Today you are doing very well if you catch ten pounds."

The coraclemen work in pairs, drifting downriver with their net strung out between them. At the end of each run they carry their coracles and their catch back to their starting point and begin again. It is not unusual for them to walk 20 miles in a night with the lightweight boats strapped to their backs. Mr Elias never wears a lifejacket, despite the fact that his coracle is no bigger than a bathtub and made only of pitch-covered calico and split hazel. He can't swim, but years of experience have given him perfect balance.

"That's the way it's always been in my family. The old-timers used to tie the young ones to the seat of the coracle with a couple of feet of rope so if it turned over they knew where to find them," he said.

What particularly galls the fishermen is that the National Rivers Authority, the Environment Agency's predecessor was partly responsible for the dam that played a major part in the Tywi salmon's decline. The efforts of fish that manage to pass the dam and reach their spawning ground are wasted because runoff from conifer plantations has made the water too acidic for the fry to survive.

Last week's practice paddle could be the closest that Mr Elias gets to the river this season as he missed the January 1 licence application deadline. "It is bureaucracy at its best," he said. "This is the first year since records began in the 1700s that there won't be an Elias on the river — and probably for long before that."

Hotels renowned for salmon fishing are bracing themselves for "substantial losses" this season with the arrival of rules requiring anglers to throw fish back. The Environment Agency is proposing bylaws on English and Welsh rivers to conserve stock by banning live bait and making it mandatory to throw back fish migrating to spawning grounds until June 16.

As the season started today on some of the great salmon rivers, such as the Torridge and Tor in Devon, the proposals were awaiting the attention of ministers, who are expected to confirm them soon.

Hotels on prime fishing rivers claim that the rules, which rob anglers of the thrill of hooking and eating a prized fish, will cause many regulars to forsake Britain for salmon-fishing holidays

abroad. Countries such as Chile, Argentina and Norway are being heavily promoted as alternatives. Up to 100 hotels and their staff are likely to be affected by the bylaws. Philippa Hughes, who runs the Holme Chase Hotel on Dartmoor, said yesterday that the proposals were already putting fishermen off. "About 30 per cent of our business is during the fishing season, from May through to August," she said. At weekends, eight or nine of the hotel's 17 bedrooms would be occupied by anglers.

The indications are that this could be halved," Mrs Hughes said. Losses could amount to "tens of thousands of pounds". Charles Inniss, who owns the Half Moon Inn at Sheepwash, Devon, and ten miles of the Torridge, said that the plans were a catastrophe. "My season starts on March 1 and bookings are way, way down."

Mr Inniss, who is chairman of the local fisheries association, the Tor-Torridge Joint Consultative Committee, said that what angered it was the blanket way in which the Environment Agency had drawn up rules for all rivers irrespective of their different seasons and runs of fish. "We estimate they are taking away 60 per cent of our catch."

He said there were voluntary conservation rules on the Torridge, including a maximum catch of two fish per angler for part of the season. Guy Mawle, fisheries officer at the Environment Agency, said that the proposals were confidential. Ministers could back them, reject them or call for a public inquiry.

Letting fish off the hook puts hoteliers in fear

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Income not the figure that counts

Two thirds of the women who have breast enlargement or reduction, at a cost of up to £5,000, earn less than £25,000 a year, according to a survey by a cosmetic surgery group.

The Harley Medical Group said: "Cosmetic surgery is not these days for the frivolously rich and lavishly vain." The women wanted to look more "statistically normal" and to have figures that were in proportion, so that it was easier for them to find clothes in high-street stores that fitted. Most took some years to decide whether to have surgery.

School drug trip

Berkshire schoolchildren are to visit cannabis cafes in Amsterdam's red-light district as part of an education project to prevent drug abuse. The scheme, organised by Thames Valley Police, has angered some parents and teachers.

Oasis on Mars

Evidence of the whereabouts of water-bearing minerals on Mars has been found by astronomers using the Hubble space telescope. Regions containing rusted iron minerals such as haematite have also been located.

Victim named

A teenager whose body was found by a policeman in Northampton on Saturday has been named as Andrew Boyce, 18. Police disclosed that he had been beaten to death in his bed-sit, and his body dragged out and dumped on waste ground.

Tubby triumph

The BBC has commissioned 105 more episodes of *Teletubbies*. Filming by Ragdoll Productions will begin in the spring at the company's outdoor set in Warwickshire for programmes that will be broadcast over three years.

Toad safety

A road in the Nottinghamshire village of Oxtun will be closed for a month from today to let thousands of common toads cross safely from hibernation sites to breeding ponds. A third of the toads have been killed in previous years.

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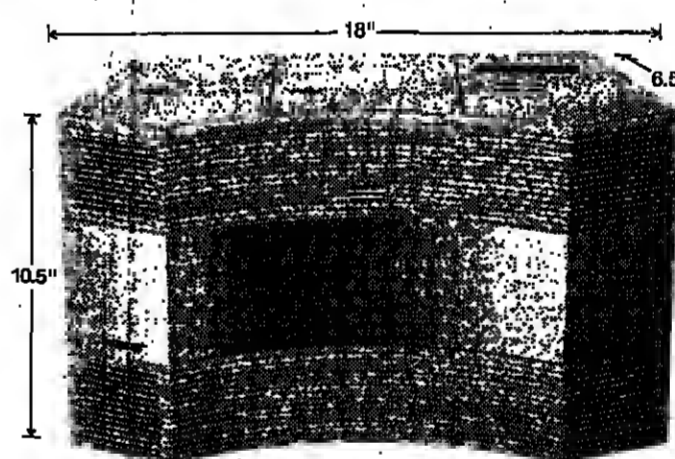
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هكذا من الضحل

Israelis hit back as top general in Lebanon killed

FROM NICHOLAS BLANFORD IN BEIRUT

ISRAELI warplanes last night bombed Hezbollah militia positions at Baalbek in eastern Lebanon after Israel's senior commander in south Lebanon was killed along with three others by a roadside bomb near the village of Kawkaba in the border zone occupied by the Jewish state.

Hezbollah guerrillas as well as Lebanese and Syrian troops retaliated with anti-aircraft fire, reports said. Israel was also bombed from Lebanon by either rockets or mortars, military officials said.

Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, fighting an election battle dominated by security issues, ordered the attack in retaliation for the death of Brigadier-General Erez Gerstein.

General Gerstein, 38, was the most senior Israeli officer to be killed in Lebanon since

the 1982 invasion. His death, coming less than a week after three officers from an elite Israeli commando unit were killed in a Hezbollah ambush, has added to the climate of uncertainty in Lebanon during the period preceding the elections in May. Seven Israelis have been killed in the occupation zone this year. Last year, 24 Israeli soldiers died and 100 were wounded.

Hezbollah, the Shia Muslim group which spearheads efforts to oust the Israeli Army from the occupation zone, claimed responsibility for the latest ambush. "This operation confirms our determination to continue our struggle until we have liberated our land," Naum Qassem, Hezbollah's deputy secretary-general, said.

General Gerstein, two other soldiers and an Israeli journal-

ist were killed when their convoy was targeted by the bomb ten miles north of the frontier with Israel. The general's car was destroyed.

Just 25 minutes later, Hezbollah guerrillas detonated a second bomb along the same stretch of road as an Israeli military vehicle passed. The occupants were reported unhurt.

General Gerstein's death was greeted by jubilation among the Lebanese, but it renewed fears that Mr Netanyahu will repeat the actions of his predecessor, Shimon Peres, by unleashing a military offensive against Hezbollah to garner votes from the security-conscious Israeli public.

In the run-up to the 1996 elections, Mr Peres launched the 16-day Grapes of Wrath air and artillery offensive in which 170 Lebanese civilians were killed.



Binyamin Netanyahu on his arrival at Jordan's Royal Palace in Amman yesterday

Netanyahu anger Jordan with 'ally of Saddam' claim

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN AMMAN

THE Israeli Prime Minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, yesterday struggled to defuse a serious crisis in relations with Jordan provoked by a speech in which he suggested that the Hashemite kingdom could again ally itself with President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Mr Netanyahu's claim cast a shadow over his Amman talks yesterday with Jordan's new ruler, King Abdullah II — the first between the two since they spoke briefly at King Hussein's funeral. As Israeli officials mounted a damage control exercise after the speech provoked a furore in Jordan and among his political rivals in Israel, Mr Netanyahu tried to dismiss the dispute as a "storm in a teacup".

Hard-pressed Israeli diplomats denied that the King's refusal to appear at a joint press conference with the Israeli leader was a snub. One Israeli official said that yesterday's appearance of Mr Netanyahu with Faysal Tarawneh, the Jordanian Prime Minister, was "a matter purely of protocol and the fact that the King

is still in the 40-day official mourning period".

Jordanian anger was reflected by the *Jordan Times*, which called Mr Netanyahu's remarks a "gross misrepresentation of historical fact, demonstrating once again Netanyahu's complete lack of political sophistication". The daily paper, one of Amman's most moderate in its approach to the controversial 1994 Israel-Jordan peace treaty, accused him of "an inexcusable lack of consideration" towards Jordan's mourning.

In the speech Mr Netanyahu reminded an Israeli university audience that the late King had sided with Iraq during the 1990 Gulf crisis and the war to oust Iraq troops from Kuwait launched in 1991.

Days earlier the new King had met the expected future ruler of Syria, Bashar Assad, the son of President Assad, and a leading Jordanian opposition member, Leith Shubilat, had met Saddam. Both contacts were seen as ominous by Western diplomats.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Italian 'prejudice' outrages lecturers

Rome: More than 1,000 British and other foreign lecturers who teach at Italian universities will today present European socialist leaders with evidence that Italy is "breaking European Union law" by discriminating against them "on grounds of nationality" (Richard Owen writes).

The lecturers are staging a two-day strike to coincide with a conference in Milan to co-ordinate campaign plans for the forthcoming European parliamentary elections. Those at the meeting will include Tony Blair, Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor and Lionel Jospin, the French Prime Minister.

Iraq says raid killed 3

Baghdad: Three Iraqis, including a child, were killed and several others were injured in US air raids on villages in the northern no-fly zone, an Iraqi military spokesman said. The US said in a statement earlier from Incirlik air base in Turkey that F15E fighter jets launched three air-to-ground missiles and dropped three laser-guided bombs on an Iraqi air defence headquarters and radio relay site in the zone. (AFP)

Lusaka hit by blasts

Johannesburg: Zambia deployed police and troops in Lusaka after six bombs exploded in and around the capital. A guard was killed by the blast at the Angolan Embassy. Bombs also exploded at the American International School and the headquarters of the electricity suppliers. "We are treating this as a security crisis," Vincent Malambo, Legal Affairs Minister, said. (Reuters)

Yeltsin back in hospital

Moscow: President Yeltsin was taken to hospital over the weekend in what has become a routine occurrence (Anna Blundy writes). The ulcer that first incapacitated him in January is still bleeding, apparently because of too much activity by the President, and his doctor has recommended hospital observation and a decrease in Mr Yeltsin's already much-depleted workload.

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Noor: beat up Anwar "under provocation"

Chief of police admits assault

By DAVID WATTS

MALAYSIA'S former police chief admitted through his lawyer at the inquiry yesterday into Anwar Ibrahim's injuries that he had beaten up the former Deputy Prime Minister.

The inquiry was told that Abdul Rahim Noor had "lost his cool" after Mr Anwar accused him of being the "father of all dogs" and attacked him. The admission of the assault is another blow to the reputation of the Mahathir Government and its officers, and Mr Anwar's accusation of a conspiracy against him is gaining credibility among more and more Malaysians.

Teh Poh Teik, Mr Noor's lawyer, said the former police chief had acted under great provocation. However, Mr Anwar denied giving any insult and said there had been no conversation between himself and the two officers who came to his cell after he was detained last September 20.

He was speaking at an inquiry into allegations that he was beaten up after his arrest on charges of corruption and illegal sexual acts. The inquiry is being held separately from his trial on these charges.

Unusually, the hearing was held on a Sunday after the trial judge refused to adjourn hearings so that he might attend the inquiry.

Nigeria poll rigged, claims loser

Observers say Obasanjo victory should stand despite cheating. Sam Kiley reports from Lagos

NIGERIA'S fragile transition from dictatorship to democracy was in jeopardy yesterday after Olufemi Falae refused to accept the victory of his opponent for the presidency, General Olusegun Obasanjo, amid widespread allegations of vote rigging.

Senior members of Mr Falae's All People's Party (APP) stormed out of the electoral commission offices and refused to continue participation in the counting process.

The 1993 elections, which were won by Chief Moshod Abiola, were annulled by the then military leader, General Ibrahim Babangida who used

squabbling between politicians as an excuse to stay in office himself. Results from 31 of the 36 states yesterday showed a lead for General Obasanjo of more than five million votes.

"I said if General Obasanjo won a free and fair election I would congratulate him but clearly this is not a free and fair election," Mr Falae said in his home town of Akure.

"The vote was completely

rigged," one of Mr Falae's aides said. "We have not had free and fair elections and Falae will contest this."

True to form, many Nigerians could not resist the temptation to rig their own elections. Jimmy Carter, the former US President, and many other international observers across the country reported widespread irregularities.

However, European Union

monitors said the results were in line with the will of the Nigerian people, despite widespread fraud.

"We judge that the result of the election reflects the wishes of the Nigerian people, marking the final and most important electoral stage in the transfer of power to a democratically elected civilian government," the EU monitors said in a statement.

However, the level of cheating appeared to be equally balanced between General Obasanjo's supporters and those of Mr Falae.

International approval for the elections is essential to Ni-

geria which had been economically crippled by 28 years of corrupt military rule out of the 38 since independence from Britain.

Mainly Western donors have prepared a \$15 billion (£900 million) rescue package for the world's sixth-largest oil producer which is unable to refine enough of its high-grade crude for domestic use because the military has deliberately run down refineries and profited from imported products.

Fuel queues lasting for days choke Lagos, Nigeria's largest city. In Abuja, the newly-built inland capital, senior civil serv-

ants have to buy their petrol on the black market.

General Obasanjo has pledged to "make Nigeria great again" but he faces a Herculean task in ridding the country of corruption and attracting new investment.

General Obasanjo, 61, a Baptist, did best in the north of the country where the mainly Muslim Hausa-Fulani tribes have traditionally feared a power shift to the South, the general's Yoruba heartland, where he polled the least votes.

Mr Falae is also a Yoruba. The choice of both men as contestants for Nigeria's ultimate political prize was re-

garded as a means to reduce tensions between the north and south.

The general has two months to form a Cabinet before being sworn in by the outgoing military leader, General Abdulsalam Abubakar, on May 29.

He said that his priorities would be to stamp out corruption and bring economic growth to Nigeria. But Nigerians have heard it all before.

Picking through rubbish in Lagos, Ben Oluvole, a beggar, shrugged his shoulders.

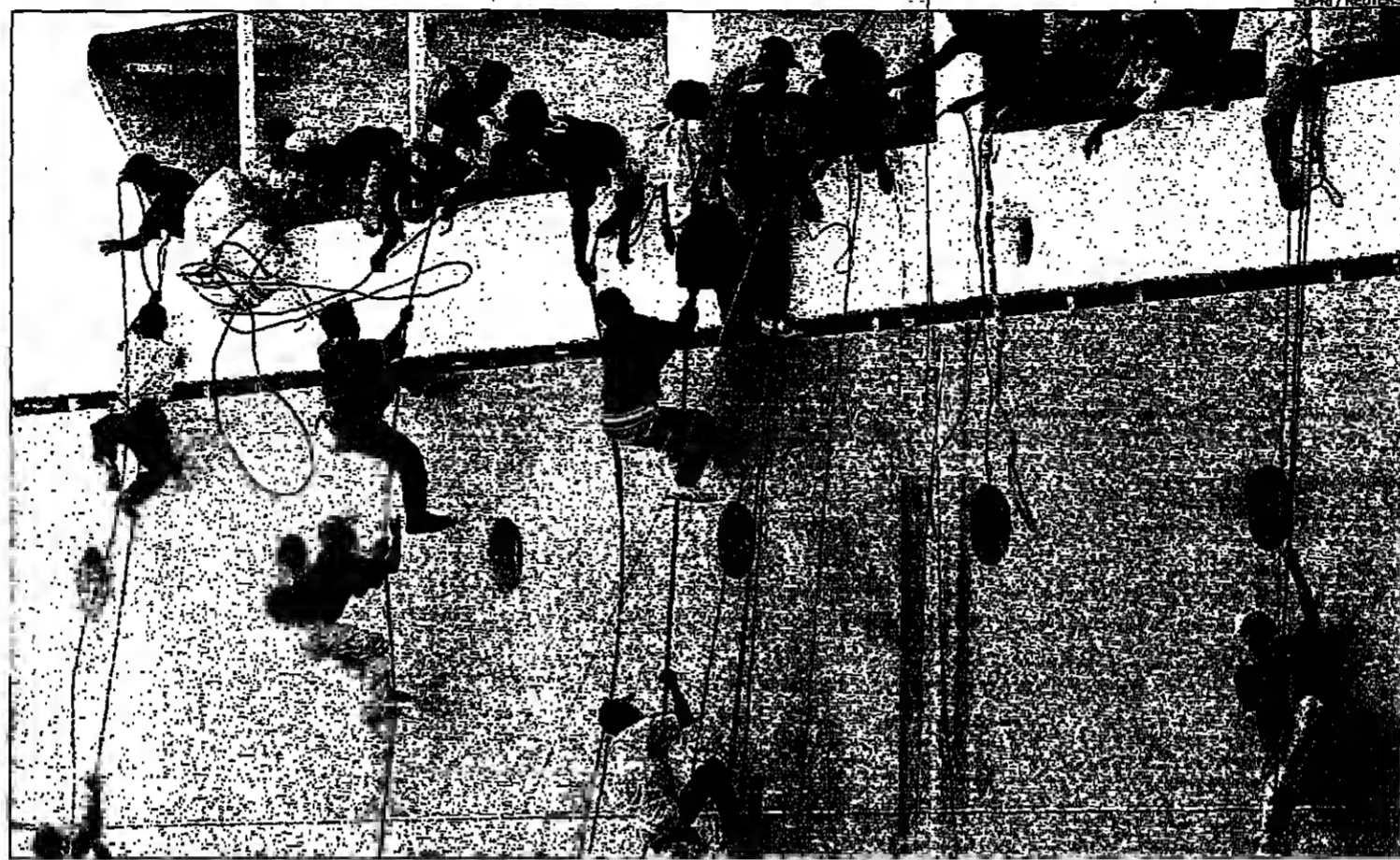
"What will democracy ever mean to me? I am nothing, we Nigerians are nothing to our leaders," he said.



Refugees flee Indonesia island riots

Ambo: Some 1,300 people fled this riot-torn Indonesian city yesterday amid mounting tensions following the explosion of a homemade bomb late on Saturday.

A local journalist said there were no immediate reports of casualties



Refugees in Ambo scramble on to a Jakarta-bound vessel while, above left, Indonesian soldiers help a baby to board the ship

in Saturday night's bomb explosion at the town of Ahura. "Many houses, churches and mosques were burnt but we cannot confirm the numbers yet," he said.

Homemade explosives have been used frequently in recent clashes be-

tween Muslims and Christians in Indonesia's eastern spice islands. More than 160 people died in savage rioting in January and another flare-up has killed at least 24 in the past week.

Meanwhile, people jammed Am-

bon's port in an attempt to flee the city, which is 1,440 miles east of the capital. "There are about 1,300 people at Ambo's port rushing to board a ship heading for Jakarta," said a witness.

"I am scared of being killed. I am

also worried for my family's safety," one man said.

Indonesia has been racked by waves of ethnic and religious unrest over the past year, fuelled by the country's worst economic crisis in 30 years. (Reuters)

Australia trims its fighting forces

FROM DAVID WATTS IN SYDNEY

THE Australian Army is turning out tubby troops who it says are too fat to fight. Under a policy to weed out weaklings, almost 700 officers and other ranks—some of them women—are packing their knapsacks for civvy street.

They failed to meet the army's requirement that they must be able to run 1.5 miles in less than 12 minutes, pass a shooting test every year, be ready to travel overseas within 30 days and be medically fit with a good set of teeth.

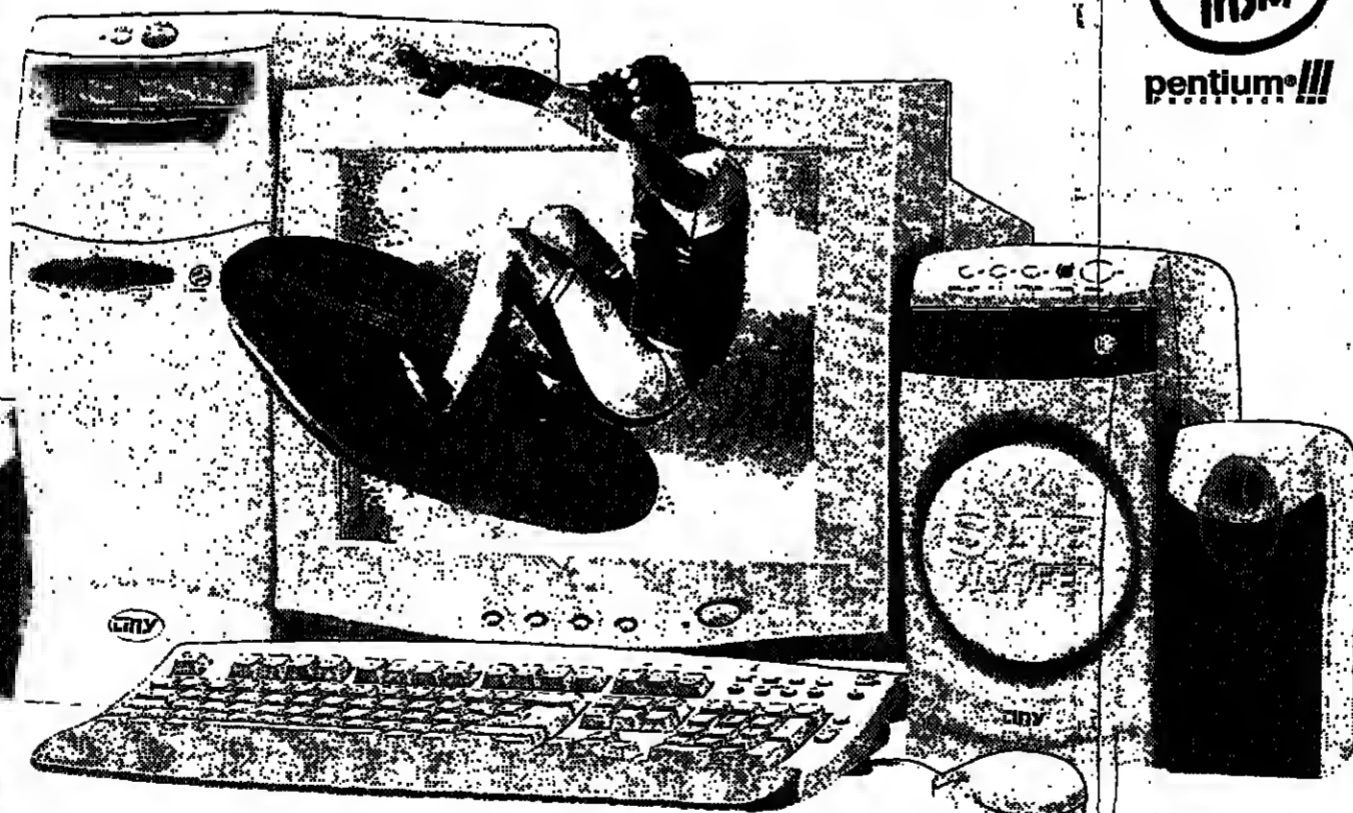
In the first year of the new rules, five officers and 42 soldiers were shown the door. Another 40 officers, including five senior lieutenant-colonels and 607 other ranks, have been given notice of discharge.

The revelation comes in the week Australia lost one of the few remaining legendary diggers who created the army's reputation at Gallipoli, a reputation for toughness reinforced in Vietnam but which appears to have slipped despite involvement in more post-Second World War conflicts than Britain.

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Ethiopia claims victory in border dispute

FROM JAMES BONE
IN NEW YORK

THE United Nations Security Council called at the weekend for an immediate halt to the fighting between Ethiopia and Eritrea amid fears that the newly landlocked Ethiopians would try to reclaim Red Sea ports ceded to their smaller neighbour when it gained independence in 1993.

The Ethiopian Government declared "total victory" yesterday in the eight-month border conflict, after its troops recaptured the disputed 120-square-mile Badme plain. Eritrea said, however, that there was a fresh Ethiopian assault along the 60-mile front and UN officials expressed concern that Ethiopia might try to press on to the coast.

The rulers of the two countries were long-time allies in the civil war against the Ethiopian dictator, Mengistu Haile Mariam, whom they ousted in 1991. When Eritrea gained independence two years later, the two states were hailed as leaders of an "African Renaissance". A bitter rivalry developed, however, when Eritrea established its own currency, the nakfa, in 1997 to replace the Ethiopian birr.

The deterioration in relations meant that Ethiopia was no longer able to trade through its former ports of Massawa and Assab, rendering it dependent on neighbouring Djibouti for access to the Red Sea. A full-scale war broke out last May when Eritrea seized Badme, an area on the border which was populated by ethnic Eritreans but under Ethiopian administration and was not demarcated.

Shuttle diplomacy by envoys from the United States and the UN failed to defuse the conflict, as Eritrea rejected a peace plan put forward by the Organisation of African Unity calling for its withdrawal. Ethiopia's crushing victory on Friday prompted Eritrea to reverse course and hurriedly accept the OAU plan in what diplomats took as a sign that the Eritrean Government feared that Ethiopia would seize more land.

Albright talks tough as China relations sour

BY JAMES PRINGLE AND IAN BRODIE

WITH tensions mounting in Sino-American relations, Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, and her Chinese hosts will engage in tough talking today, setting the scene for next month's first official visit to Washington of Zhu Rongji, China's Prime Minister.

Fresh from her failure to push through a Kosovo agreement, Ms Albright acknowledged to a congressional committee, before leaving for two days in Beijing where she arrived last night, that "sharp differences" have emerged with China since the high water mark of President Clinton's visit eight months ago. Indeed, that deteriorating relationship is considered a prime reason why Mr Clinton has been unable to find a high-profile replacement Ambassador for Beijing when James Sasser leaves in May.

"Let me stress," said Ms Albright, in defence of Washington policy, "that in our deal-

ings with China, engagement is not endorsement". There is supposed to be a "strategic partnership" between the two nations, but this fuzzy phrase cannot disguise the triple blow that Washington delivered to China last week.

First there was the decision to deny the sale of a US-made satellite to China for a mobile phone network that, according to the Pentagon, would also have helped the Chinese to make their intercontinental missiles more accurate. The second was a Pentagon report on China's missile build-up opposite Taiwan, and the third, a stiff rebuke to China over its human rights record.

The State Department's annual report — which angered the Chinese — described crackdowns against organised political opposition and accused China of extra-judicial killings, torture and mistreatment of prisoners, forced confessions and arbitrary arrests.

To make matters worse, the crackdown on dissidents continued in the run-up to the Albright visit, prompting the Senate to call on the Administration, with a 99-0 vote on Thursday, to promote an anti-China resolution at this month's United Nations Human Rights Commission meeting in Geneva.

The resolution underlined that the Administration is under enormous domestic pressure not to pull its punches on China, despite concerns at the damage such criticism can do to other US interests such as trade and the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Non-government Chinese experts in Washington suspect that Mr Clinton and Ms Albright have left relations with Beijing on auto-pilot between visits, unaware that they were swerving off-course. There seems scant understanding that the end of the Cold War has made the Chinese more distrustful of America, especially those in power who remember that Henry Kissinger and his successors co-opted them to gang up on the Soviet Union. Using this argument, Chinese leaders can advance the notion that they are Washington's targets now.

Other issues loom large, including America's \$57 billion trade deficit with Beijing. US plans to develop a missile defence system to protect its Asian allies; and Congressional allegations that China may have obtained access to US technology to improve missiles and nuclear weapons.



Ms Albright is met by Lu Xumin, a Chinese official



The Rev Henry Lyons, flanked by his lawyers, listens to the guilty verdicts in his Florida fraud trial

Church leader fails to find a friend in Jesus

Ian Brodie in Washington on Baptist preacher found guilty of \$4 million fraud

THE leader of America's largest black religious organisation, who used to punctuate his sermons on sin with cries of "I'm doing some preaching now", walked from court without a word after being found guilty of swindles running to millions of dollars.

Henry Lyons, 57, faces up to eight years in prison but he refused to resign as president of National Baptist Convention USA. Rather, said a defence lawyer, he was going home to pray at his church in St Petersburg, Florida, where he is still pastor.

The guilty verdict by the all-white jury in Largo, Florida, ended a career of sex, flamboyance and deceit conducted under the cloak of God's name. Lyons was convicted of racketeering by helping himself to more than \$4 million (£2.5 million) from corporations wanting to sell cemetery plots, life insurance and credit cards to his national membership, which he claimed to be 8.5 million strong. In fact, said the prosecution, it was closer to one million.

Bernice Edwards, 42, his organisation's public relations director and his suspected mistress, was cleared of racketeering.

It was the alleged affair that led to Lyons being caught. His enraged wife Deborah set fire to a luxurious waterfront home that he had bought with Ms Edwards.

The episode prompted a police investigation that uncovered an extravagant spending spree by Lyons, including a timeshare flat in Nevada, several luxury cars, expensive furs and a dia-

mond ring "the size of a dime". He was alleged to have lavished gifts on several mistresses.

Meanwhile, Lyons was duping the companies seeking his membership list by sending them names from computerised telephone directories.

This scam led to lenders being sent such non-Baptists as a grand dragon of the Ku Klux Klan and a Catholic priest.

Lyons denied the charges throughout. Even as damning documentary evidence piled up, he and his lawyers constantly predicted that God would deliver him.

When the jury retired to consider its verdict, Lyons and Ms Edwards, who denied having an affair with him, joined hands with others outside the court to sing: "What a Friend We Have in Jesus".

A supporter, the Rev Charles Embery, led the group in prayer, asking God to help the jury come to the "right" verdict.

But after 12 hours of deliberation, the five women and one man said they found the evidence against Lyons compelling. And he still faces a federal trial on 54 counts of tax evasion, money laundering and extortion.

Voyeurs of the world braced for revelation of the full Monica

BY IAN BRODIE

THE week of the full Monica Lewinsky treatment opened yesterday with assorted leaks, including an admission that she ignored her mother's advice to end her affair with President Clinton.

A well-orchestrated media blitz on both sides of the Atlantic will see Ms

Lewinsky telling her side of the story on television, as well as the release of her book, written with Andrew Morton, newspaper serialisations and more interviews. The first interview will be on Wednesday in America on ABC, when Ms Lewinsky will admit to Barbara Walters — and, the network hopes, an audience approaching Super-Bowl proportions — that her relationship with Mr Clinton was an emotional roller coaster and that she became depressed as it disintegrated.

She was extremely fragile by the time Kenneth Starr's prosecutors found her, Ms Walters told *Newsweek*, and they "pushed her over the top", making her feel desperate. Earlier, Ms Lewinsky's mother, Marcia

Lewis, had tried to persuade her to end the relationship. Ms Lewinsky admits that her stubbornness kept her from heeding the advice.

Ms Lewinsky says she believes that, at the start of the affair, Mr Clinton was genuinely remorseful. Now, she says, the man she sees on television is all politician, sorry only that he got caught. Ms Lewinsky ex-

plains how prosecutors came to know about the infamous cigar escapade. She had described the incident to friends who were then called before the Grand Jury, so by the time she made her appearance the jurors knew all the salacious details.

Ms Lewinsky found that, of all the things written about her, comments about her weight hurt her the most.

But she kept her sense of humour, repeating a joke about herself to Ms Walters that was considered too bawdy to broadcast.

Ms Lewinsky makes a public apology to the American people. Asked if she is still in love with the President, she says no, but there have been times when she feels "kind of warm" towards him.

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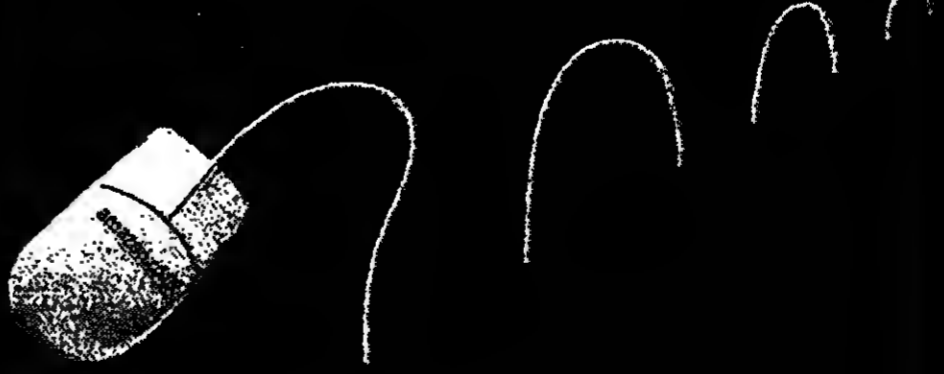
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Rebels mark birth of Balkan conflict

FROM ANTHONY LOYD
IN LIKOSANE, KOSOVO

A COMMEMORATIVE service on a mud-slick plateau outside the village of Likosane yesterday marked the first anniversary of the Kosovo war's bloody birth.

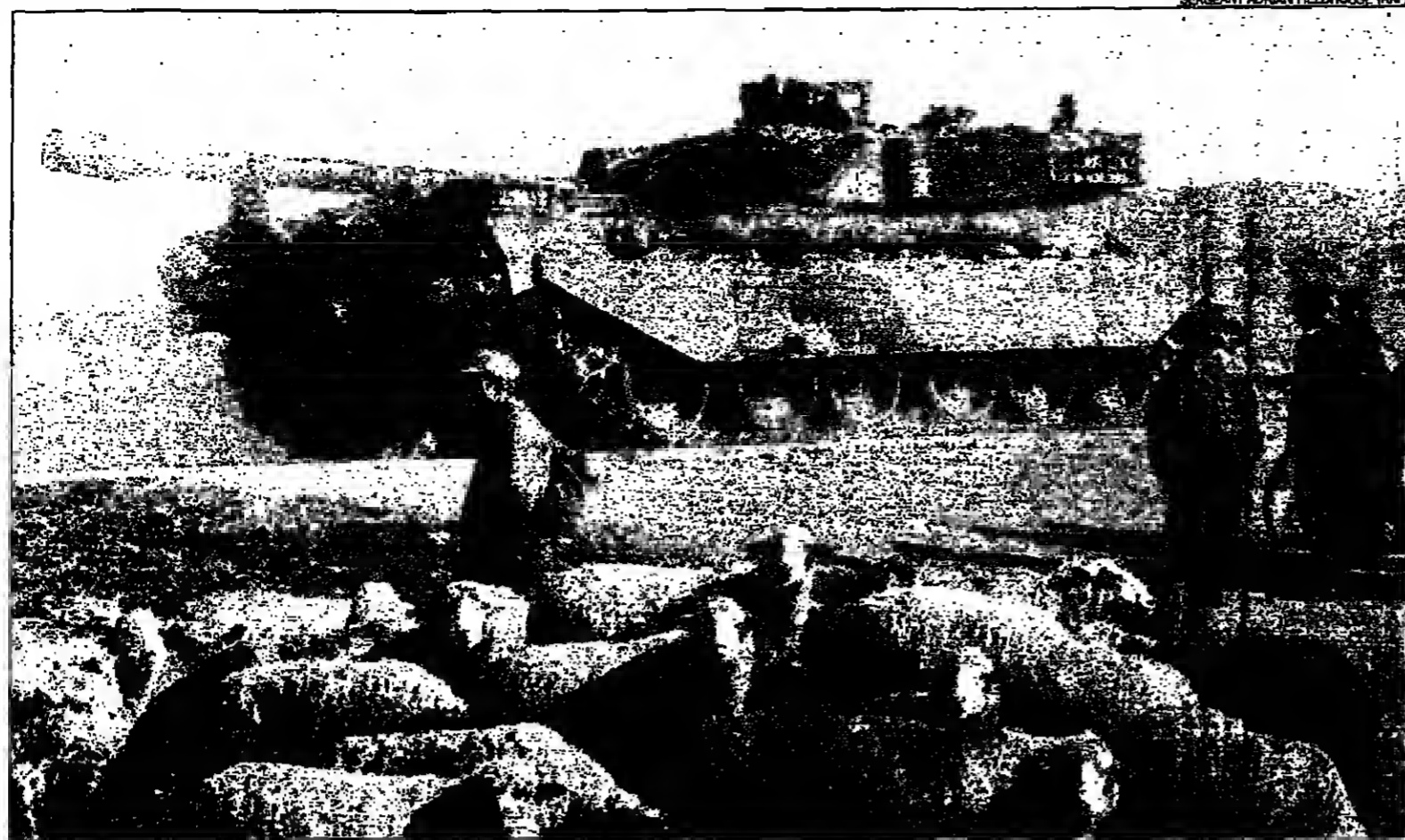
About 3,000 ethnic Albanians gathered beside the graves of 25 of their number slain there a year ago. Except for the continuous buzzing of a Serb observation plane flying overhead and the tedious speeches of Kosovo Liberation Army commanders competing with the whine of feedback from a faulty speaker system, the scene was strangely silent; the crowd, familiar now with the depredations of conflict, was subdued and seemingly drained of emotion.

The skies on February 28 last year were the same blue, the ground the same snow-scrubbed mud of spring thaw. But war was afoot then. So, as they went about their business that day nobody in Likosane, a farming community 25 miles north-west of Pristina, could have anticipated what was to befall them.

On the eastern side of the village, caught between fields and a track junction, grows a legendary oak tree. Two hundred years ago, according to the village elders, the shoots from six acorns entwined together as they grew.

As a sapling, the oak was protected from livestock by the villagers, who watched it grow over the years into six equal trunks from one root. The tree was known as the Six Brothers: the latest phase in the death of Yugoslavia — six republics previously linked by the brotherhood and unity of Tito-era communism — started beneath the Six Brothers.

Last year, when the KLA was little more than a myth, a group of armed guerrillas drove past the oak. As they did so, Serb police hiding in a farmhouse sprung an ambush. One of the KLA men, Sabit Lladrovci, was hit. His companion, Rasim Keci, fired at a police vehicle with a machine-gun. Two policemen died. The war had started.



A British Challenger tank with the King's Royal Hussars arrives in Krivolac, in Macedonia, as part of the proposed Nato peacekeeping force

Kosovo peace recedes as Serbs mass on border

SERB forces massed in their thousands in and around Kosovo yesterday as the province was engulfed in new fighting that threatens to shatter the fragile peace process.

Western military advisers said there were now more troops in Kosovo than at any time last year, and feared that Belgrade might be about to partition the province.

Brian Donnelly, the British Ambassador to Belgrade, yesterday urged the Yugoslav Army and Serb police to rein in their forces.

Meeting Kosovo Liberation Army leaders at one of their central headquarters in the village of Ladravac, Mr Donnelly said he hoped Belgrade could control the thousands of security troops now deployed around the province in breach of the October ceasefire rules. The ethnic Albanians, he

Envoy calls for restraint as fears grow of plans to partition province, writes Tom Walker in Belgrade

had to be given the chance to understand the Contact Group peace proposal. But as his Range Rover ploughed through the snow and mud of the Drenica region there were reports of hostile attacks on police stations and Yugoslav Army units taking up positions along the southern and northern borders of the province.

"I can confirm fighting and shooting," said Beatrice Lacoste, a spokeswoman for the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe observer mission in Pristina. Kosovo's capital.

Mr Donnelly met two of the

Albanian delegates to the first peace conference at Rambouillet. Jakup Krasniqi, the KLA spokesman, and Ram Buja, the group's political adviser, Mr Krasniqi said the "will of the people had to be expressed". Mr Donnelly told them that an Albanian signature at the next phase of talks, on March 15 at Evreux in Normandy, would increase pressure on Belgrade to come to an agreement.

But Western military advisers and international monitors fear that Kosovo will be beyond salvation by March 15, and that the Contact Group's hopes for Nato to come into a

"benign environment" are little more than a pipe dream.

"The planners are barking mad and I've told them so," said one of the most experienced advisers in the province. "The Yugoslav generals will have to fight." He described the new Yugoslav Army hierarchy as being almost entirely obedient to President Milosevic's wishes.

On Saturday French monitors counted 71 shells landing near the village of Bukos, which has now been besieged by the Yugoslav Army for five days in what Belgrade has cynically called "a winter exercise".

The special interior ministry police units that will have to leave Kosovo altogether under the Contact Group plan were also poised for action last night, as they joined the Yugoslav army in chasing the KLA

and up to 3,000 new refugees south from the town of Kacnik, on the road south to Macedonia. Earlier the KLA had fired on the police station there, killing one officer and injuring four others.

The police were also preparing an offensive against KLA villages near the town of Orasovac, where two Serbs were kidnapped on Saturday. As British monitors persuaded the police to hold off their attack, two bodies were found dumped on the main road south of Orasovac. They were not thought to be those of the Serbs, whom the KLA hinted they were still holding.

Mr Donnelly warned that he suspected there "were still some quarters" in Belgrade where it was believed the KLA could be eliminated.

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Schröder's strategy fails the EU test

INSIDE GERMANY



BY ROGER BOYES

Mountains, as we discovered last week, are dangerous. So too, are summits for untried politicians working with clumsy sherpas. Gerhard Schröder, in his first real test as a European leader, fumbled his way through a complicated brief at the informal EU summit last Friday and left people wondering whether he will ever quite gain the stature of Helmut Kohl.

The weekend reviews of the Chancellor's performance — in the German, British, French and Italian press — were poor, even if France and Spain were sometimes identified as the "real" problem. In Germany, the Chancellor's smiling appearance on prime-time talk and quiz shows was contrasted unfavourably with his uncertain touch with fellow European leaders.

I think that the Chancellor is being too harshly judged at home. It was never going to be easy to rule with the Greens, and his own Social Democrats have always been uneasy in power. Herr Schröder's skills, honed as Prime Minister of a Red-Green regional government in Lower Saxony, are tactical rather than strategic. He has led two great retreats in his first 100 days of government — edging away from Green plans to scrap nuclear waste recycling contracts, and showing himself responsive to public discontent about proposed changes to the nationality laws. Yet in both cases he managed to present his U-turns as a defeat for the Greens.

The Chancellor's technique, applied against his rival, Oskar Lafontaine, and the Green Environment Minister, Jürgen Trittlin, is to let troublesome Cabinet ministers over-extend themselves and then suddenly take a quick step backwards. Public outcry is directed at the errant politicians while the Chancellor, whose popularity ratings remain high, is seen as the man who listens to the people.

The medium-term strategy is to shed the Greens as a partner and lead a grand coalition, either with the debilitated and suitably grateful Christian Democrats, or with the tiny Free Democrats. Rehearsal time has begun — the Government is having to deal with both parties since it has just lost its overall majority in the upper house, the Bundesrat.

Where, one might ask, is the meat in the sandwich? According to the official line, the theme of this Gov-

ernment is the war on unemployment. Cutting the number on the dole by half a million is the undeclared goal by the next election in 2002. The next governing term, preferably with a different partner, would be dedicated to the thorough-going modernisation of German society. There are still well over four million unemployed and little progress has been made since the general election last autumn. The Chancellor managed to bring employers and unions together last week for the first session of an "alliance for jobs". This demonstrated a Schröder strength — to bring warring sides together and act as a kind of anchor man.

The German leader took a similar approach to European policy and it was in this spirit that he chaired the summit high up in Petersberg overlooking the Rhine. After a day's hard slog on Agenda 2000, he understood at last that the tricks of domestic political management cannot be applied to the European Union.

It is still possible that some kind of European financing deal will be struck in Berlin at the end of this month. But the Chancellor needs to grasp some of the fundamentals. First, if Germany wants to play a leading role in Europe, it has to pay for it. Germany will always be the chief paymaster of Europe — that is the essence of its power; if it pays less (and makes a big issue out of paying less) its power will diminish accordingly. Second, it cannot have an open confrontation with France and win (at least off the battlefield).

Herr Kohl understood this and the primary task of his francophile sherpa, Joachim Bitterlich, was to find ways in which the French could privately surrender positions and yet not lose face. Herr Schröder's foreign policy adviser, Michael Steiner, has not yet mastered this technique.

New wave of skiers arrive as Tyrol mourns

FROM ROGER BOYES IN INNSBRUCK

CHURCH bells rang out the length and breadth of Austria yesterday as the country mourned the 38 victims of the worst Alpine avalanche for several decades. The coffins of the victims — the last, a 14-year-old German girl, was dug out of a wrecked cellar on Saturday — were lined up in the St Wilten monastery chapel outside Innsbruck.

Tears streaked the faces of relatives, many of whom survived the disaster as snow raced down the mountainside last week at speeds of up to

190 mph to engulf Galtür in the Tyrol. Others, such as the mother of two young boys killed in the avalanche, were too distraught to attend.

The service was attended by Viktor Klima, the Austrian Prime Minister, who declared yesterday a day of mourning. Manfred Stroppe, the Prime Minister of Brandenburg who was representing the 21 German victims, and Swiss government officials.

Several hundred tourists nevertheless arrived in the Tyrol yesterday, anxious to make use of the deep snow and empty pistes. The authorities who had cleared many of the main approach roads in western Austria at the weekend denied that they had done so to encourage new tourists. Hoteliers, most of them heavily in debt, had been anxious that nobody would want to come to the Paznaun valley.

The village of Galtür was opened at the weekend for the first time in a week and the full scope of the damage could be studied by reporters.

"We are still under shock," said the local innkeeper Siegmund Wolthard, sobbing quietly as he made a bonfire of destroyed timber.

But four-year-old Alexander Walter, who was found under the snow almost two hours after being hit by the avalanche in Valzur, was yesterday said to be playing with toy helicopters in his hospital bed, on his way to a complete recovery.



Relatives of victims at the Innsbruck service

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مكتبة القرآن

Surrey's own Oskar Schindler

In a quiet corner of Guildford lives Henk Huffener, an embarrassed hero who saved dozens of Jews from the Nazis. Interview by Grace Bradberry

Henk Huffener's house, off the Guildford-Dorking road, is not merely in the Surrey stockbroker belt — it is at its very buckle. He has lived here for 40 years, and although various artistic types have beaten a path to his door (his friends include sculptors, photographers and writers), no one in the village has taken much notice.

"If anything, people have ignored me," he says, in his clipped Dutch accent. "I'm foreign. I don't belong to the stockbroker's club." And who would expect this 76-year-old man, with a wedge of grey hair sucking out beneath a bald pate, to have anything remarkable to say? But his neighbours have just received a jolt from the local papers. Huffener, it transpires, has a Past. "I don't want to go out any more. It's ridiculous," he says, waving a hand irritably.

You might surmise from this that he is one of those benign old men who turns out to be a former Nazi. In fact, he is that more remarkable character, a hidden hero. From 1941 to 1945, Huffener saved dozens, if not hundreds, of lives. He spied on German troop movements, helped to secure an escape route to Switzerland, evacuated a kibbutz and hid numerous families in safe houses, even finding a place for a girl with Down's syndrome. He was imprisoned in a slave labour camp, escaped, carried on.

Last month Huffener, a retired antique dealer and qualified psychologist, travelled to the Israeli Embassy in London, accompanied by his wife Margaret and 50 friends and relatives. He became only the 13th British citizen to be honoured with Yad Vashem's "Righteous Among the Nations" award. He felt, he says, "virtual embarrassment" — the medal has joined his Dutch Resistance Cross, worn only twice, on a shelf in his cluttered basement.

His story begins in 1941, in an isolated house in a wood outside Biddhoe. This was the home of the Huffeners — father (an engineer), stepmother and seven children. They were a cultured, sociable family. "We were right in the sticks. That's important — no one overlooked us." When

Huffener's father began holding Resistance meetings at the house, there was no one to see. "My father was an incredibly kind, brave person. He never showed any anxiety at all."

The rest of his family seems to have inherited this temperament. Huffener's sister Ann looked after a safe house, about a mile from the family home, that was a crucial staging post on an escape route used to smuggle Allied pilots, diplomats and Jews, first to Switzerland, then to Spain. Huffener was involved in this work. His younger brother, Joep, made friends with a doctor who was transmitting messages to London, and Huffener provided the doctor with information about German troop movements. "I was 18 but I looked 14 and I'd chat to the soldiers. I'd be cheerful and gormless and say 'gosh, are you really going in that direction?'" The Germans eventually detected the doctor's aerial and stormed his house.

"They caught him red-handed; he was taken away and shot. That was the end of my spying," says Huffener. Despite its grim conclusion, this was to be only the first of Henk's Resistance exploits. A friend of his, Paul Koning — later a successful sculptor — introduced Huffener to Loekie Metz, a young Jewish woman who was staying at a German Zionist kibbutz near Loosdrecht. "In March 1942 a tip came that they had less than a month to fold up the kibbutz and get out. The Germans were very fond of the idea of 'way folk', as they were then called — young people going up country, hikers and bikers." So Huffener and others would go unnoticed as they cycled through the countryside, accompanied by one or two members of the kibbutz. It was an audacious and dangerous mission. On one occasion he was stopped by German soldiers while escorting an obviously Jewish-looking girl who spoke no Dutch. He kissed her, explained to the Germans that they must be off or they would be in trouble with their parents, and got away with it.

The naivety of some of those he saved now seems extraordinary. Huffener visited the same girl's parents in a bleak Jewish district of Amsterdam. The father produced a black velvet cushion displaying a medal. "He said 'That is an Iron Cross First Class. I am exempted from deportation'. But I said 'Don't believe them.' His plea went unheeded. In all, 110,000 Jews registered with the Jewish Council and obeyed the instruction to move to the ghettos. Those who went into hiding needed constant support. 'In Anne Frank's story you never hear about the people who sustained them,' Huffener points out. He became one of those people, moving about the country, never giving his full name, establishing a false address and carrying false papers.

In 1943 he was arrested while making a trip to Arnhem, where some of the kibbutz residents were hidden in a warehouse. He was charged with minor offences — not having an appropriate travel document and not having registered for work or study — and was questioned at Gestapo headquarters. He sat in the cells for two months. "I got very nervous because I thought somebody would twig. My last scene of crime, the warehouse, was only 300 yards away."

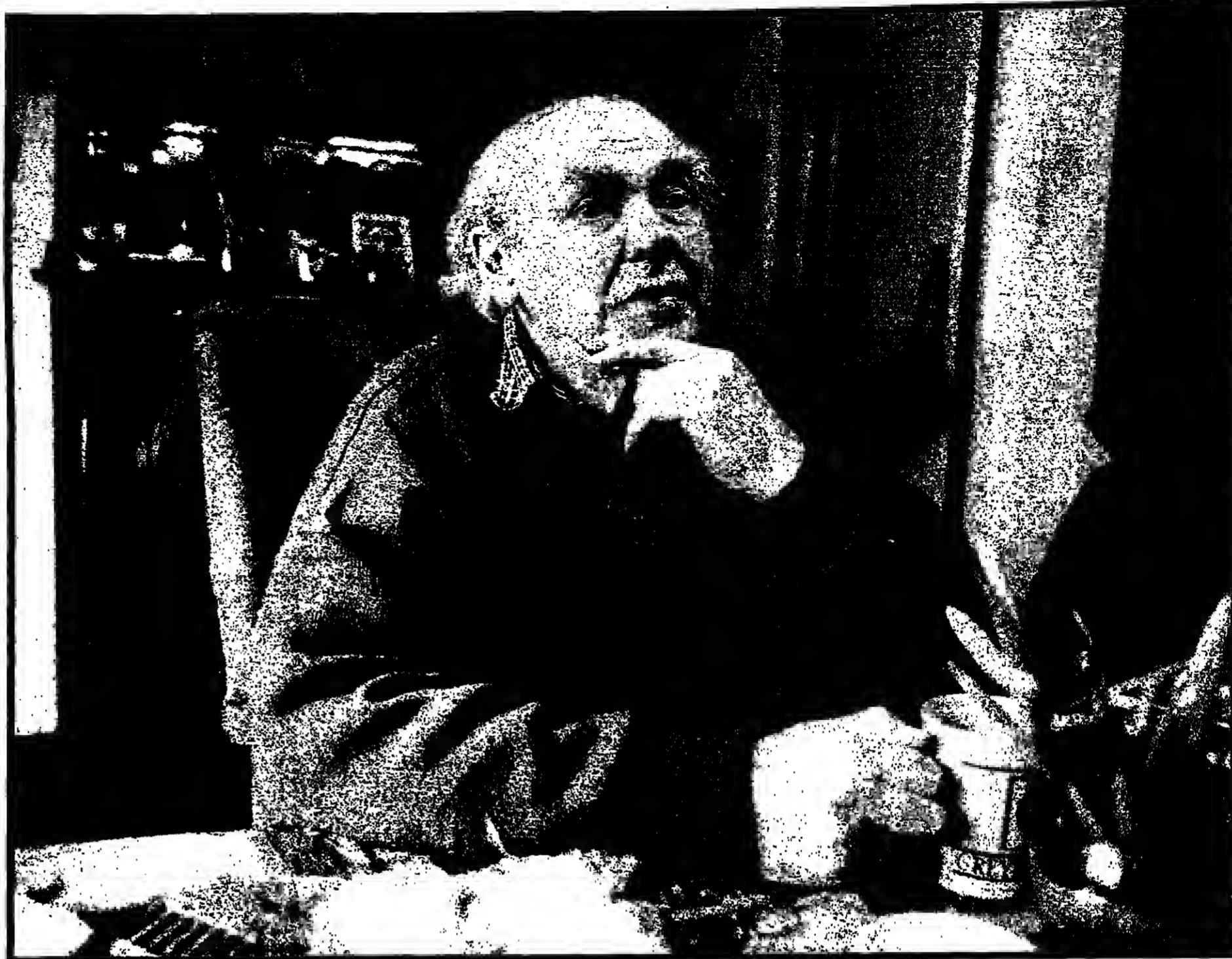
Finally he was sent to a slave labour camp in Germany, where he endured 16-hour shifts, inadequate food and poor sanitation. Through sheer resourcefulness, he talked his way first into a skilled job, then an office position, before wangling canteen lunches, wages and, ultimately, a leave permit.

He still has it — a piece of A5 paper, patterned like a driving licence, with the words "until further notice" audaciously typed by Huffener himself. There is a stamp from the local police station, where he endured a 20-minute wait before officials finally gave up trying to check his story.

He arrived back in Holland to discover that the SS had got hold of his name and had raided his father's home. He moved to Amsterdam and looked up a cousin whose husband was a land agent. Huffener was given access to empty properties and lived in one, hiding Jewish people in the others.

"I trotted around Amsterdam, very much a wanted person, and every time I'm stopped by the police, I say 'I've got this pass.' That paper saved my life right through to the end of the war."

Huffener's most extraordinary achievement, perhaps, was to save an entire extended family. Before his imprisonment, while he was still in Arnhem, a friend approached him about an old couple who owned a soft-furnishings company. They had two daughters, one with Down's syndrome. Through his sister Ann, Huffener found a psychiatrist who would look after the girl in an institution. He took her across Holland first on the



Henk Huffener: "I have not suppressed the grim things but I don't want to relate them all that much. I could not have survived if I had not had a frivolous mind"

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Henk as a young man. Hendrik Henk's father



The Huffener family's isolated home near Biddhoe

train, then on the back of his bike. "We sailed up the drive, the girl screaming with joy because she'd never had a ride on the back of a bike before."

Next he had to look after the couple's other daughter, who had moved to Arnhem with her husband. "I was told 'They are in a flat where they are not meant to be. The son-in-law is sitting on the balcony with a bag and a newspaper, and the neighbours have seen. They have a four-month-old baby screaming at night. It's a matter of a week or two and they will drag him out.'"

He knew that he could hide the couple — but not with their baby. Through his sister, he found a foster home for the child. "I went to this couple and said 'You can't stay here, I'm asking you to let the baby come with me.' It was a very fearful scene." Finally, they agreed.

In 1945 the family were reunited. "All three generations came back. Absolutely marvelous." The young couple moved to Israel, and although they sometimes visited England and knew Huffener's address, they never visited him. "I can understand," he says. "I wasn't all that popular with them, having wrenched their child away. There was an aspect of embarrassment about it. What are you supposed to do? Say thanks? You don't do it for thanks."

So why did he do it? Why risk death to save strangers when so many others did not? "I had Jewish friends," he begins. "It's difficult to say. I'm probably a bit odd in that I love cultural diversity..."

He seems reluctant to acknowledge his courage. "I've not suppressed the grim things, but I don't want to relate them all that much. I couldn't have survived if I hadn't got a frivolous mind."

He drifts into another anecdote. He has just moved to Amsterdam and has not yet found the land agent cousin with the spare houses. Instead he is in a grim flat, on the edge of a ghetto, sheltering with an old Jewish couple who have decided that they want to die. "A great troop of Germans come over the wooden bridge and spread out over the street. They start shouting 'Everybody downstairs: with your bundles.' We're on the second floor. Beneath us is a West Indian man playing his saxophone. They go up the stairs, smashing the door. He comes out in his pyjamas. They shout at the guy 'Juden, Juden.' He says 'I'm not a Jew.' They say 'No, we know, you're a nigger.' He assures them that there is nobody upstairs and they turn and go downstairs."

So the old Jewish couple, I ask, did they decide they wanted to live after all? "No," says Huffener shortly. "They killed themselves that night with cyanide pills."

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	£2,500 up to £5,000 2.10%	1.65%	1.65%	1.32%
	£5,000 up to £10,000 2.55%	2.05%	2.05%	1.64%
	£10,000 up to £20,000 3.75%	3.25%	3.25%	2.60%
	£20,000 up to £200,000 4.20%	3.70%	3.70%	2.96%
PREMIUM	min £500 up to £2,500 1.40%	1.10%	1.10%	0.88%
	£2,500 up to £5,000 2.25%	1.75%	1.75%	1.40%
	£5,000 up to £10,000 3.05%	2.55%	2.55%	2.04%
	£10,000 up to £20,000 3.65%	3.45%	3.45%	2.74%
	£20,000 up to £40,000 4.15%	3.65%	3.65%	2.92%
	£40,000 up to £200,000 4.95%	4.45%	4.45%	3.52%
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	£2,500 up to £200,000 2.00%	1.75%	1.74%	1.39%
MAGNUM	min £500 up to £2,500 1.80%	1.60%	1.59%	1.27%
	£2,500 up to £5,000 2.10%	1.85%	1.84%	1.45%
	£5,000 up to £10,000 2.50%	2.05%	2.04%	1.63%
	£10,000 up to £20,000 2.80%	2.35%	2.34%	1.85%
	£20,000 up to £200,000 3.50%	3.00%	2.99%	2.39%
TROPHY	min £500 up to £2,500 2.15%	1.75%	1.74%	1.39%
	£2,500 up to £5,000 2.50%	2.00%	1.99%	1.59%
	£5,000 up to £10,000 2.75%	2.25%	2.24%	1.79%
	£10,000 up to £20,000 3.25%	2.55%	2.54%	2.09%
	£20,000 up to £40,000 4.05%	3.55%	3.54%	2.82%
	£40,000 up to £200,000 4.80%	4.30%	4.29%	3.40%
ONE YEAR SHARES	min £1,000 up to £2,500 3.85%	3.35%	3.35%	2.69%
	£2,500 up to £5,000 5.05%	4.55%	4.55%	3.69%
	£5,000 up to £20,000 5.80%	5.30%	5.30%	4.24%
	£20,000 up to £40,000 6.00%	5.50%	5.50%	4.40%
	£40,000 up to £200,000 6.20%	5.70%	5.70%	4.60%
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BOUNTY DEPOSITS	min £500 up to £2,500 2.10%	1.60%	1.60%	1.29%
	£2,500 up to £5,000 2.20%	1.80%	1.80%	1.40%
	£5,000 up to £10,000 3.35%	2.85%	2.85%	2.28%
	£10,000 up to £20,000 4.10%	3.60%	3.60%	2.88%
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COMEDY

Red Dwarf: man and a television sitcom on stage

THE TIMES ARTS

Imbecile firmly in charge

In recent years the tiny Gate has accomplished so much — from rediscovering Spanish plays of the Golden Age to introducing us to the German dramatist Marie-Luise Fleisser to giving spare, simple productions of Kenneth McLeish's stunningly bold translations of Euripides — that it has every reason to make a fuss of itself.

It may, if it likes, celebrate its 20th birthday with a season called Idiots, "devoted to the sensibly challenged". It may even declare in its publicity blurb that "imbeciles are very firmly in charge at the Gate". We know it is the theatre's jolly distinguishing way of preparing us for Cervantes's *Don Quixote* and the satirical East European plays that will follow.



THEATRE

There are, of course, many hilarious incidents in the original novel, and a few of these are included in Maria Mombland Ribas's production. Patrick Kealey's monotonously grave and earnest Quixote makes a barber's basin for the magic helmet of Mambrino and snatches it from its stupefied owner. He confuses inns with castles, rips apart puppets who have offended his sense of chivalry, rescues a shepherd's boy from a deserved beating. Whether he tilts at windmills I cannot be sure, for the moment passed in a twinkling during which latecomers were distracting me. But little else is particularly ludicrous and nothing else is funny, so it hardly matters.

Nor is pace or clarity helped by the introduction of a narrator-guru in the form of Cide Hamete Benengali, whom Cervantes pretended was his story's inventor, and two female listener-commentators, both in modern togs and one with a half-penetrable accent. He gives them plonkingly obvious lectures about imagination, reality, reason and the other subjects the adapter wishes us to ponder — "nothing is what it seems, have you forgotten that already, my little budget-gars?" — while they do little but take up space and time. Mehmet Ergen's earthy good-natured Sancho Panza emerges with some credit from the deconstructionist banalities on offer, but otherwise — imbecility is the *mot juste*.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



Mehmet Ergen and Patrick Kealey in the Gate's incoherent adaptation of the classic Cervantes tale of Don Quixote

Fresh and juicy



OPERA

PUCCINI's early masterpiece is now more than 100 years old but remains as miraculously fresh as its subject-matter. Young love, youthful ideals and shattered dreams motivate the plot and not many productions capture this spirit as well as Göran Järvelid's 15-year-old staging for Welsh National Opera.

By the final act, the poverty is inescapable. The Bohemians' garret looks (in Michael Yeargan's designs) like a squat Marcello has had to compromise his ideals and is busy producing a still life that will be easy to sell. In these surroundings it is not surprising that Mimì's death seems even more painful than usual. It helps that all the principal

pals are young: this is not the strongest cast WNO has ever fielded in *La Bohème*, but they are an evenly matched group of singing actors. It is less they than on the opening night they were often swamped by the orchestra under Graham Jackson. After a slightly scrappy start, Jackson settled down to conduct a performance full of theatrical life, but overdid the juice in what is already a very juicy score.

Alwyn Mellor gives perhaps the most fully rounded performance, singing with glowing tone and charting Mimì's decline poignantly. The Bohemians make a lively

quartet, but Gwyn Hughes Jones's Rodolfo stands out for his sweetly lyrical tone. Simon Thorpe's Marcello is more deeply characterised, an overgrown naughty boy at the start who is perhaps most affected by events, and he boasts a warm baritone. Dean Robinson's Colline and Matthew Hargreaves's Schaunard are not overshadowed, however, and the latter sings the best Italian. Gail Pearson's perky Musetta is dynamic in a small package, and her slender soprano rides the ensembles brightly.

JOHN ALLISON

Mixed in with Asian spice

COMEDY: *Goodness Gracious Me* is attracting a mainstream audience to the theatre. Clive Davis reports

There had been mutterings that the level of inspiration was starting to wobble by the end of the second television series of *Goodness Gracious Me*. So it is refreshing to report that the stage version, which is on tour until the middle of next month, scores one greatest hit after another.

In a glum week for news on the race front, it was also encouraging to see not just a full house but a decidedly mixed crowd. When GGM star Sanjeev Bhaskar performed an accomplished solo show at the South Bank just after Christmas, he played to an audience that was 99 per cent Asian. Here at the Reading Hexagon was proof, if it were needed, that he and his colleagues are mainstream talents too.

Bhaskar and Meera Syal have attracted most of the critical attention so far, partly for the very good reason that they contribute their own material. But this evening was very much a collective success. Kulvinder Ghir's clowning is put to superb use, particularly in a parody of an all-action, all-dancing movie hero. Nina Wadia makes a convincing transition from miniskirted Asian "fit-girl" to the indomitable Mrs Bedi, a matriarch who is never caught without an aubergine in her handbag. The whole enterprise fizzles with the self-confidence of a Westernised generation that has come of age.

British paternalism receives a ritual poke in the eye in Toby Longworth's cameo performance as a nostalgic colonial gent and a dim-witted back-packer. But Asian insularity

comes in for much more of a biding. Gurus are treated with jovial disrespect, and we are introduced to a new chain of restaurants, Planet Bollywood, that seats its customers according to skin tone.

Some of the skits looked underpowered on a stage as large as the Hexagon's. Anil Gupta's direction would benefit from a little tightening. But we do have the opportunity to relive the English restaurant sketch, an instant classic which depicts a table full of Bombay rowdies bullying a timid Caucasian waiter. "What's the blandest dish on your menu?"

Craig Charles's role in another offbeat BBC2 series, *Red Dwarf*, forms one of the selling points for his national tour. Not that there were many touches of the surreal in his performance at Oxford Brookes University — apart from the bizarre sight of him lowering his trousers to display a chic set of stockings and suspenders. His well-publicised spell in prison supplies the meatiest sequence in his routine. For all the cheeky Scouse swagger he brings to his tales from a darkened cell, there is no mistaking the fear and loathing underneath.

The rest, though, tends to fall into a predictable run through off-colour, toilet and sex jokes. Even an account of a trip to Bill Gates's empire turns into an excuse to linger in the aeroplane's WC. A pity. At his best, when he allows his stream-of-consciousness indignation to bubble over into a poem, Charles conveys a real sense of individuality.

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Blair books his ticket to euroland

A danger to the Tories as the odds shorten on entry

Nothing is inevitable in politics. But there are probabilities — and British entry into the euro is now probable. Tony Blair has made entry a strategic aim of his Government. For all the careful wording of his Commons statement, he cast aside previous ambiguities that allowed some sceptic commentators to delude themselves that he was really on their side.

The Government will now actively seek to achieve entry. Of course, like any shrewd politician, Mr Blair left himself a let-out clause by stressing the economic tests. However, failure to join in the next Parliament would be a huge setback for his strategy of closer involvement in the European Union, and would force a reassessment of his whole foreign policy. This is leaving aside the possibility of defeat in a referendum, which could be fatal to his premiership, but he would not call one unless he was sure of winning.

The latest MORI poll for *The Times* indicates that opinion has become less hostile to entry. The precise figures showing an even balance for and against might differ with a slightly altered question, but the trend is clear and is backed by other recent polls. More significant is that half the public is persuadable either way, depending on what it thinks would be best for the economy. So much for the myth of a firmly sceptic electorate. Moreover, over two thirds of the public regards entry as likely-inevitable.

A sizeable minority of the public, now about a quarter, is strongly opposed to British participation. That is, in effect, the position of the Tory leadership and is William Hague's



Peter Riddell

instinct "a nation that has decided its own destiny for 1,000 years", rather than just ruling out entry for the next Parliament. However, such an absolute position may also be limiting the Tory potential for recovery. A recent MORI poll commissioned by John Stevens and Brendan Donnelly, the former Tory MEPs and founders of the new Pro-European Conservative Party, showed that a pro group led by Michael Heseltine and Kenneth Clarke might not only attract 13 per cent support (against 19 per cent for Mr Hague's party) but it could also win back Tory defectors from Labour and the Liberal Democrats.

The Stevens-Donnelly group may be no more than spoilers in this June's European elections, but their activity shows that Mr Hague cannot assume that a majority will rally to a "save the pound" call. That may be true of a hard core, but any referendum will be decided by the much larger number whose vote will be swayed by their economic interests.

The Government's case is that Britain would be left behind outside the euro with people worse off and investment at risk. Joining will be presented as a logical step rather than a big leap. That means showing that the euro is successful and that Britain would fit into euroland.

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Serious tensions do exist, as shown by the squabbling between finance ministers and the European Central Bank, and by the failure at Friday's summit to make progress over reform of the budget and farm policies. Mr Blair has to be able to show that Europe is reforming itself and that its labour, capital and product markets are becoming more competitive.

However, arguments over the proposed levy on art sales and the threat to the Eurobond market from a withholding tax make the EU appear less attractive, and Mr Blair also has to show that further moves towards closer integration and qualified majority voting are not against British interests.

The New Europe group launched today by David Owen, with mainstream-centrist backing, is fighting on this ground with its anti-monetary union but pro-European line, a socially acceptable scepticism that is not right-wing. But how does it avoid the embrace of the ultra?

Mr Clarke and Mr Heseltine are now happy to work in an all-party campaign with Mr Blair. Will Lord Owen's group be content to sit with Bill Cash and his allies?

The Owen approach is more fundamentally flawed. Despite legitimate doubts over monetary union, the group still believes that Britain can pick and choose which bits of the EU it wants to join with no adverse consequences. But Britain cannot really have a central role in the EU if it is outside monetary union for long. Other countries, and many in the City and big business accept, albeit reluctantly, that Britain cannot join for three or four

years. But any longer and Britain will suffer a loss of business and investment.

Moreover, the policies adopted by the euro II will have a direct impact on Britain, and we will have no influence on them outside the euro. Many Tories are content to accept such a detached position, and want Britain to renegotiate its relationship with the EU anyway. The Owen group wants Britain to be part of Europe, yet as Mr Blair has come to recognise, that is not consistent with being outside a successful single currency.

The debate will turn on these questions of economic advantage. The Tories are in danger of being seen not just as split, as they may be in the Euro elections, but also as detached from most of mainstream business. As Mr Blair remarked last Tuesday, there could even be "the delicious irony of going into the next general election with the only fears on the financial markets being the prospect of a Tory election victory".

There is still a big task of persuasion, and winning a referendum will not be easy, especially if the Tories recover strongly at the next election. But by at least taking a lead, Mr Blair has started to shift the odds in favour of entry.



We haven't a prayer

From the millennium prayer to government by cliché and the dumbing of ITV, we are in the grip of dunces

My grandson Wilfrid, who is four years old, was getting annoyed with his mother; in the angry voice little boys use, he said: "I want you out of my language." That was how I felt when I read the text of the millennium "prayer": it has so annoyed the Archbishops of Canterbury and Westminster that they are thinking of boycotting the Dome on millennium night. They will, in any case, be much better off with their own congregations, in their own cathedrals, praying to their God. The Dome has no faith, though it smells faintly of neo-paganism.

The prayer, as quoted in the *Daily Mail*, reads: "Let there be respect for the Earth, peace for its people, love in our lives, delight in the good, forgiveness for past wrongs, and from now on a new start."

No mention of God; no mention of Christ. The churches are said to be spending £6 million sending a copy of this string of slogans, together with a free candle, to 18 million homes in Britain. Apart from the Dome itself, there can hardly be a greater waste of money. There are quite enough people in Britain already who speak in clichés — almost all of the new Labour Party for a start — without spending £6 million on dumbing down our language still further.

My first reaction to the millennium prayer was to compare it with genuine prayers, with the Lord's Prayer, psalms, with the prayers of great religions. It does, indeed, borrow some religious language. "Let there be" comes from the first chapter of the Book of Genesis. "And God said, 'let there be light'; and there was light." "Respect" is a word used in the Mafia to describe the deference appropriate to the leader of a criminal organisation. "Respect for the Earth" is a green slogan.

"Peace for its people" is quite close to "peace in our time", which Neville Chamberlain, on his return from Munich, borrowed from the Book of Common Prayer. "People" is, of course, a new Labour word, as in "People's Princess". "Love in our lives" occupies an intermediate position between a religious statement and the lyric of an old-fashioned popular song; it could well be the last line of one of those mawkish modern hymns written for children.

"Delight in the good" is a mysterious, even ambiguous, phrase. Are we being advised to delight in good things, as a wine expert might savour a glass of

Château-Lafite, or a silver connoisseur might admire a Paul Ströer saltcellar? Or are we simply supposed to delight in doing good, which often involves labour and self-sacrifice? Isaac Watts thought that all creatures delighted in the natural appetites God had given them. "Let dogs delight to bark and bite. For God hath made them so; Let bears and lions growl and fight, For 'tis their nature too."

"Forgiveness for past wrongs" mixes one of the petitions of the Lord's Prayer with the modern habit of apologising for historic evils, such as the slave trade or the potato famine. My own Irish ancestors were on the wrong side of the potato famine, so I regularly apologise to them on behalf of my English ancestors. Finally, one comes to "and from now on a new start", which sounds like a new Labour slogan for the next general election.

The whole thing is not a prayer at all. As the *Daily Mail* reports: "Supporters point out that it was carefully composed so that it could be used by Christians, those of other faiths and those of no faith at all." It is a political statement, designed to persuade people of differing views that they are in agreement when they are not. I do not know whether it is more offensive for its stylistic clumsiness, for the meretricious use of fragments of real prayers, or for the mind-numbing combination of vacuity of meaning with intellectual dishonesty.

The Dome has become the grand national symbol of the process of dumbing-down. It is splendid news that the Jubilee Line may not be finished, so the best way to get there on the night may be to abandon one's car in Greenwich and jog through a disused container port. That sounds an ideal way to celebrate the start of the new millennium.

In Inspector Clouseau's accent,

"dome", "dumb", "damp", and "dumb" all sound very much the same. The Prime Minister has told the Queen she must spend millennium night in a dumb dome, or perhaps in a damp dump. That will make her the new People's Queen, and help him to retain the new People's Prime Minister.

Another, and more than symbolic, dumbing-down has been the wanton destruction of independent television. I hope it will be discussed at the conference on dumbing-down which *The Times Literary Supplement* is mounting next Friday. For 30 years, ITV produced some of the best television in Britain, constantly challenging and often surpassing the BBC. It has already been reduced to a shadow of what it once was. One can read the ITV programme on most nights without seeing anything that raises a flicker of interest or pleasure. Even the great Melvyn Bragg only comes on at a late hour, and has been encouraged to follow the dreary agenda of political correctness.

I am not criticising ITV for excessive emphasis on popular entertainment — would that I could — but for the oceanic boredom of its schedules. From 8pm to 9pm this evening, a peak viewing hour, ITV will be showing 30 minutes of surveillance footage, taken by HM Customs, followed by a half hour of home improvements on the Wirral. Of course, there is always *Coronation Street*: "Maxine struggles to cope at the salon in the absence of Audrey, while Gary and Judy decide on godparents for the twins." There is gritty socialism for you. However, there has always been the compensation of *News at Ten*, topical, well-presented, well-edited, the most professional of the network news services. For more than 40 years that has remained an excellent news programme. In its first years it forced the BBC to modernise

news broadcasting; in the early 1960s, I remember ITN introducing the first televised Budget broadcast and the first live computer forecasts on the general election night programme. Alastair Burnet presented both of them; I had the good luck to be one of the talking heads. Now *News at Ten* is to go, despite the well-deserved popularity, and the seriousness, of Trevor McDonald. From dawn to dewy eve, ITV will be dullness, dullness, dullness.

The commercial companies are, in their own commercial terms, destroying what used to be the strongest of network brands. Of course, as the ITV network vanishes down the plughole, it will still be possible to watch the *Jerry Springer Show*. Jerry Springer has a sinister rather than merely mindless vulgarity. *News at Ten* is dead, but Jerry Springer lives.

As with the dumb Dome, complete with its God-free spirit zone, Tony Blair's Government must share the blame for the destruction of the ITV tradition. Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, is also responsible for broadcasting. He appointed Gerry Robinson, the chairman of Granada, as the chairman of the Arts Council. Mr Robinson dumber down Granada, and has done his best to dumb down the Arts Council as well. Mr Smith continues to co-sponsor and subsidise on television as the apostle of support for the arts.

The Prime Minister has done more than anyone in British public life to substitute propaganda images for political debate. From the start of his leadership, he spoke in sound-bites for the soundbites came. He uses political language to sentimentalise and dissolve the real issues of policy, not to define them. It is rather the same as a conjurer using patter to distract his audience from what he is actually doing. No doubt this is a worldwide fashion. President Clinton himself abuses language as well as women.

Alexander Pope described the triumph of unreason in the *Dunciad*: "Lo! Thy dread empire, Chaos, is restored; Light dies before thy uncreating word." Our national dialogue has been denatured; in religion, in politics, in social debate there has been a substitution of spin and image for language, truth and logic. I am extending Wilfrid's motto: "I want the dunces out of my language."

comment@the-times.co.uk



Tally low

LEAKY roofs at the National Trust, courtesy of the Prince of Wales's friends: the wrangle over the charity's ban on stagholing is heading for the courts again, and its coffers are emptying sharply.

The trust, which has already spent more than £200,000 on legal fees, is being pursued with renewed vigour by the Devon and Somerset Staghounds, whose supporters include Hugh Van Cutsen, a pal of Prince Charles. Money for the case has to be diverted from conservation work.

My tip for a better use of funds: Hardwick Hall, the Duke of Devonshire's former ancestral seat — memorably described by Lord Torrington as "one of the proudest piles I ever beheld" — which is crumbling to dust in trust hands. Says a big welly: "They should put down their bricks and get back to drystone walls."

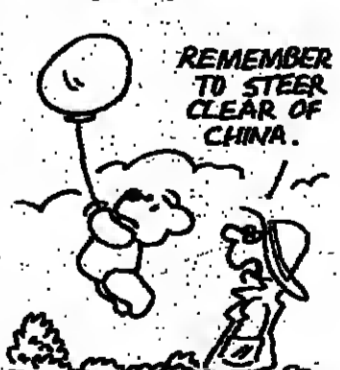
CRISPIN MILLS. Sir John Miller's pop-singing grandson, on his route into rock star debauchery: "I grew up with pictures of my Mum [Hayley Mills, below, with clan] looking very young, standing with John Wayne or Walt Disney. That did something to my head."



AN archbishop has fallen out with his estate agent, and is worried about a lost £3 million. Alwyn Rice Jones, the Archbishop of Wales, had his unhappy brush with Mammon after flogging Church of Wales land for £27 million; shortly afterwards, the canny buyer sold it on for £25 million. Over in Knight Frank, the land's valuers, who tell me cautiously: "We understand the Church is still considering its position."

IS Rosie Boycott the new Party? My close chum, the Editor-in-Chief of *Express Newspapers*, has told friends she wants to be a chat show host. Her hoped-for outlet, Channel 5, is about as popular as her current home.

LAWYERS have been ruminating over the appointment of Mr Justice Lightman to hear the most recent BCCI case. In his more humble days as a QC, Lightman defended Abbas Gokal, one of the BCCI baddies. After Lord Hoffmann's Amnesty troubles, this is sensitive stuff, but Cherie Booth, one of the defending lawyers, was happy: she spoke to Lightman about his record and was convinced of his impartiality.



AN illegitimate Dome has been born. The company building the real thing is erecting a 50-metre-high practice tent for the circus types who will perform at Greenwich.

NICK HORNBY turned to laddish novel-writing after his inkly ambitions were thwarted. Hornby, a recent £2 million transfer to Penguin, was a listless graduate when he applied to the journalism course at City University. Cruelly rebuffed, he turned his hand to fiction. "We look for commitment, aptitude and personality," says Linda Christmas, City's current taskmistress. "Anyway, journalism is not about writing."

ROYAL cinematic preferences will be clear when the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh visit Angela, the world's largest theatrical costumes, on Thursday. While the Queen will peruse outfits from Elizabeth and Shakespeare in Love, Prince Philip has asked to see the Nazi uniforms from Saving Private Ryan.

JASPER GERARD

Those Tsars, Tsarinas and party General Secretaries who are internationally considered the most impressive were often the maddest

To watch the increasingly frenzied race to be President of Russia, you would be forgiven for getting the impression that the job was somehow a desirable one, that you would not have to be seriously unstable to want it.

It seems that everyone who is anyone, from film directors to food magicians, is enthusiastically denying any intention to run (seemingly the accepted way of announcing the beginning of your presidential campaign).

To any outside observer, the advantages of being President here would appear to be few. In fact, aside from the fact that the Moscow traffic is completely cleared from the roads to allow the smooth passage of your entourage, they are non-existent. No leader in the whole documented history of the country can be characterised either by their uniformly great achievements or

by their sanity. Those Tsars, Tsarinas and General Secretaries who are internationally considered the most impressive were often the maddest.

Aleksei Konstantinovich Tolstoy's 19th-century poem *History of Russian Government* is a satire documenting Russia's changes of leadership, and though he recounts the literary triumphs of Catherine the Great's reign and the naval prowess of Peter the Great, the following refrain echoes throughout the poem: "Our country is rich but there is still no order here."

Yet in this day there are plenty of people clamouring to create some. It seems that half the presidential pretenders do not themselves know why they seek power. Yevgeni Primakov genuinely had no desire to step in when persuaded to become Prime Minister last September,

and such is the madness of Russian political life that he is one of the most popular contenders for President in 2000, although he still insists that he will not be running.

Vladimir Dvogan, however, a 36-year-old food and drink millionaire, has saturated the airwaves and billboards with adverts for his new Dvogan Party, even though he has failed to register even for December's parliamentary elections. He says he may run for President in 2004.

Nobody believes Primakov's claims of non-participation but I think his reluctance is entirely understandable. Primakov has said he wants to retire and do some fishing, which sounds good when compared with the job of constant crisis management

Anna Blundy



which could be his, and in fact already is his since Boris Yeltsin has slipped into the shadows of illness and incapacitation.

Sergei Kiriyenko the youthful former Prime Minister, ousted after precipitating the financial crisis last August, has also hurried himself back into the fray with his bid for a parliamentary seat centring on a series of heart-warming television advertisements which depict him building a toy town with his son.

His party, Novaya Sila, runs under the slogan "do it yourself", though Kiriyenko has hinted that he might, in fact, do it with Primakov in the presidential elections, should the Prime Minister finally decide to run.

In a televised interview last

Thursday night, Kiriyenko attested to his relative sanity and said that he hated politics. Although he could easily become a businessman or a consultant, it seems, nevertheless, that he just cannot help himself.

The film director Nikita Mikhalkov, who has admitted the remote possibility of his running for President if asked, launched his campaign last week with the premiere of his new patriotic film *The Barber of Siberia*, described by some as "an advert for Russia".

None of the world's many "whither, Russia?" pontificators really fancy Mikhalkov's political chances this time round, since Primakov is at least managing to maintain the distance and dignity required of a man not running for President; while strenuously consolidating his power base.

The other candidates, whose

intentions are less of a secret, are hysterically rallying support Governor Aleksandr Lebed, Afghan War veteran and currently top of the volatile presidential succession polls, is set to attend the eighth annual Night of 100 Stars Oscar viewing party at the Beverly Hills Hotel as part of his unlikely effort to appear more palatable to the West, and Yuri Luzhkov, the Mayor of Moscow, continues to dazzle Muscovites and visitors to the city with Moscow's new look cleanliness and relative affluence.

People such as Grigori Yavlinsky, of Yabloko, can be virtually ruled out on grounds of sanity, whereas Gennadi Zyuganov, the leader of the Communists, well, you only have to take one look at him to see that this is a man who must really, really want to govern Russia.

comment@the-times.co.uk



THE COMMONS INTEREST

MPs should support radical reform of the Lords

The Royal Commission on Reform of the House of Lords will today hold its first official meeting. In nine months it must produce a blueprint for reform. Lord Wakeham's appointment to the commission in January was widely welcomed because of his reputation as an efficient and flexible chairman. It was assumed then that additional constitutional expertise would be offered by other members of his committee. Although the 12 people who will assemble this morning are distinguished figures, relatively few have specific knowledge of this area. This has fuelled fears, as we report in our pages today, that the commission might feel confident to recommend only the minimum changes.

A limited approach might restrict itself merely to the abolition of the 91 hereditary peers allowed for in the plan that cost Viscount Cranborne his job last year and the introduction of a similar number of elected or even indirectly elected individuals. The bulk of the new body would be nominated. The powers of the Lords might be reduced to offset the new authority that even a slightly more democratic chamber could hold. This would be a grave mistake, producing an Upper House neither sufficiently elected to make its weight effective, nor sufficiently empowered to play the proper role of a second chamber. That would not correct the imbalances between executive and legislature that are at the core of Britain's constitutional difficulties.

There is, however, a powerful lobby in favour of such a flawed solution. It consists almost exclusively of long-serving members of the House of Commons. This cross-party contingent shares the sentiment that any truly credible second chamber would inevitably eclipse the standing of the Lower House. The larger the elected element, it is feared, the more intense is that threat. Lord Wakeham and Gerald Kaufman, the senior Labour Party appointee on the commission, might conclude that the reform which will be most widely welcomed in Parliament, thus

ensuring a swift passage into law, is one that closely reflects the wishes of such MPs.

This would be a major miscalculation of Parliament's best interests. It is not the case that a strengthened House of Lords must automatically lead to a commensurate reduction in the status of the Commons. Throughout this century the formal and informal powers of the Lords have remorselessly declined. This has not made the Commons an ever more mighty force. The opposite is true. The main beneficiaries of a weak second chamber have been ministers and party managers. They, and not the House of Commons, would again be the victors if the Royal Commission backs only marginal alterations to the structure of the Upper House.

Britain needs both Houses of Parliament to become more vigorous institutions. This alone will allow for rigorous scrutiny of the executive, a searchlight that, by exposing defective policy early, is ultimately in the interests of the Government as well. Serious reform of the House of Lords can be the catalyst for a long overdue modernisation of the House of Commons. Indeed, it may be the only event that emboldens backbenchers on all sides to demand new rights. The Conservative Party has spoken of late of its desire to restore the prestige of Parliament. It can advance that cause through Lords reform.

If the Tories are to have influence, they must act quickly. The committee led by Lord Mackay of Clashfern will shortly produce a set of options which the Shadow Cabinet will then consider. The Conservatives require a single, distinctive and radical proposal. This should lead them towards a reformed House of Lords that is half-elected and half-nominated. The elected section should contain members serving for lengthy, non-renewable terms to ensure their independence. Such a programme would put pressure on the Labour Party to endorse an equally imaginative scheme. It would also be an invaluable contribution to this most important debate.

GOOD EUROPEANS AGAINST EMU

A powerful, coherent non-partisan case for staying out

The Commons exchanges that followed Tony Blair's presentation of the National Changeover Plan last week revealed more about the political hand that the Prime Minister intends to play over the next two years than it did about the "objective" economic tests which the Government says will determine its position on EMU. Against reasoned, principled argument, his trump will be that those who oppose giving up sterling for the euro have a hidden agenda which is viscerally anti-European. Voters, he will suggest, have more sense than to align themselves with yesterday's men, old Tory dogs yapping at the heels of history's caravan. He will present the pro-EMU case as part of Labour's modernising agenda, a logical strategy for increasing Britain's international influence as well as its prosperity.

In response to this New Europe, the group that David Owen launches today to put the case against joining, offers a direct and powerfully argued riposte from a distinctively European standpoint. Lord Owen has long championed the European Union; so have the politicians, economists and business leaders around him. This is a non-partisan group of former Cabinet ministers from Left and Right. Lord Prior as well as Lord Healey, of businessmen and economists who have advised this Government as well as the last. It has resources, trustworthy leadership, and a simple, coherent message.

The heart of New Europe's case is that opposition to joining EMU is entirely consistent with a positive British role in the EU. That role should be to promote an outward-looking, dynamic Union, close to the governed and politically as well as economically flexible. Not only is staying

out consistent with this vision; it would actually fit better with a modern European vision than the fatalistic notion that just because the euro exists, Britain must join. That is because EMU is not only untested, but inherently flawed. A single interest rate cannot, by definition, take account of multiple national conditions. Rather than guaranteeing stability, growth and high employment, EMU could thus aggravate the rigidities that have inflicted stagnation and dole queues on much of the EU. For Britain, EMU would be a straitjacket.

Politically, EMU implies a federal Europe. A British decision to join would be, as the group points out, "a decisive step towards turning Britain into a mere province of Europe, with a consequent loss not only of independence but of democratic accountability". Outside, Britain retains the advantages of language, light regulation and flexible markets — and in sterling, a currency that would be more stable than the euro against the dollar. For these and other reasons that New Europe identifies, joining "in the foreseeable future" would actually make it harder, not easier, "to achieve the new Europe that we want to see", united, co-operative but not federal.

New Europe speaks to those, probably a majority of the electorate, who know that Britain's destiny lies within the EU but who have deep doubts about the political as well as economic wisdom of taking this irrevocable step. It provides an intellectual home for people of all parties and none. While working with groups such as Business for Sterling, it sees the need to stay well clear of other, Europhobic campaigns against EMU. This is a serious case, argued by serious people. It offers what Britain needs, a proper debate.

TAKE THE HIGH ROAD

The Princess Royal should make Holyroodhouse her home

In 1822, George IV made the first visit to Scotland by a ruling monarch since the 16th. His visit caused a furore. Few Scots had seen their King before. And there he was before their eyes, dressed in a kilt, a garment that had been banned after the Jacobite rebellion. The magic of such a royal progress captivated the public and, 177 years later, faced with the prospect of separatist, centrifugal forces unleashed by devolution, royal advisers are now dreaming up similar plans to bolster the Union. Court sources have been quick to dismiss reports that part of their "Scottish initiative" could include making the Palace of Holyroodhouse the Princess Royal's "official residence". They should think again. Such an act could not be more apposite. George IV would have approved.

Given her close links with Scotland, the Princess Royal has excellent credentials to become a Princess Regent in Edinburgh. She has made more appearances north of the border than any other member of the Royal Family. Her son has played for Scotland in international rugby and she is herself patron of that vital institution, the Scottish Rugby Union.

Even so, the Princess would be forgiven for viewing the idea with trepidation. She might well be given a frosty reception by

some, especially members of the Scottish National Party. Its official policy is to retain the Queen as head of state when she is resident in Scotland, with the Speaker of the new parliament fulfilling the role in her absence. Yet according to a 1998 opinion poll, nearly half the SNP's candidates for the parliament would vote to abolish the monarchy. Their republicanism makes a royal presence even more important.

Holyroodhouse lies just a few hundred yards from the Scottish parliament. For the Princess to become a neighbour to politicians charting Scotland's future might be criticised as mere symbolism, but symbolism can be a powerful riposte to the lures of separatism.

A royal resident would remind Scots of the shared values that, even with devolution, bind the United Kingdom. Leaving the palace empty, bar the few weeks each year when the Queen makes it her home, could be cited by the SNP as evidence of an absent, uncaring monarchy, for whom Scotland is little more than a place for holidays. The Royal Family has a crucial, cohesive role to play in tempering Scottish separatism. The pageantry of monarchy might seem out of step with the modernism of new Labour, but it serves as a buckle for the Union and an emblem of continuity.

Priorities for Nato peace negotiators

From Professor Emeritus Adrian Hastings

Sir, While they prepare for the recommencement of the talks on Kosovo in two weeks' time, I suggest that the leaders of Nato ponder four near-certainties.

First, that the war cannot stop without actual Nato intervention. If it does not stop now, it will go on and on, with ever greater destruction and massacre on the Bosnian model. Nato's reputation will be in shreds and its threats will no longer carry the slightest weight.

Second, that the Kosovan claim to independence is very reasonable and its eventual achievement next to inevitable. Everything now happening, and that has happened since 1989, makes it almost unthinkable that they should agree to remain yoked to Serbia. To close the road to future independence by not allowing for a referendum, even in five years' time, is as gravely undemocratic as it would be in the case of Scotland.

Third, that, paradoxical as it may seem, the only way to save the surviving Serb minority from extinction is to ensure Kosovan self-government now, with firm minority safeguards. The longer the war continues, the more certain it is that the Serb community will be so antagonised towards its Albanian neighbours that it will not survive.

Fourth, that Milosevic does not care in the least what happens to the Serb minority, any more than he cares about the fate of the Serbs of Krajina. What he cares about is that he stays in power in Belgrade.

Yours,
ADRIAN HASTINGS,
3 Hollin Hill House,
219 Oakwood Lane, Leeds LS8 2PE.
February 26.

'Unsafe' IRA conviction

From Mr Robert Rhodes, QC

Sir, His Honour Joseph Dean (letter, February 17) finds it difficult to see the justification for the Court of Appeal's recent quashing of the conviction of the alleged IRA terrorist, Nicholas Mullen, because he had been illegally deported from Zimbabwe rather than going through the proper extradition process.

The justification is simple. As Lord Griffiths pointed out in the House of Lords in *Bennett v Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court* (1993), the judiciary accept a responsibility for the maintenance of the rule of law that, inter alia, refuses to countenance behaviour threatening either basic human rights or the rule of law.

Perhaps another way of putting it is that once the courts allow the executive to stoop to this sort of misconduct, they are reducing themselves to the same level as the allegedly wicked men they are trying.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT RHODES,
4 King's Bench Walk,
Temple, EC4Y 7DL.

From Mr Charles G. Bloke

Sir, His Honour Joseph Dean thinks that the Court of Appeal should not have allowed the appeal of Nicholas Mullen merely because of gross illegality by the Crown before the trial occurred. But this is the effect of the Criminal Appeal Act 1995 which replaced the previous test of "unsafe or unsatisfactory" by the unitary test of "unsafe".

Before 1995 this would have been dealt with as an unsatisfactory verdict. There was nothing unfair about the trial process but, rather, the behaviour of the Crown was, according to the court, so bad as to require the sanction of quashing the conviction. That approach is now denied to the Court of Appeal. It had to force this case into the mould of "unsafe" when the safety of the conviction was not in issue.

The Home Secretary should look again at the 1995 Act. Whether illegality by the Crown can ever justify acquitting a defendant of a most serious crime is itself a matter to be reconsidered.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES G. BLOKE,
46 Linden Gardens, W4 2EH.
xdu57@btinternet.com
February 17.

Seeing red

From Mr D. A. Lyett

Sir, Rose-ringed parakeets may be glamorous to look at and may well "do no harm to anybody" (Weekend, February 20), but I can vouchsafe that they need "keeping an eye on". I have found them very destructive to the chestnut and winter-flowering prunus trees; also the blossom and red berries are nipped from the base of the cotoneaster shrub and let fall.

These used to be a lovely sight at the appropriate time of year but now, with the advent of these birds, I count myself lucky if in spring the chestnut has a quarter (probably less) of what it used to display.

These invaders should not be viewed through rose-tinted spectacles, no matter how colourful they are.

Yours faithfully,
D. A. LYETT,
9 The Paddocks,
Broadstairs, Kent CT10 3AJ.
February 23.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pemington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Low gear urged in drive to euro

From Mr G. T. L. Rose

Sir, As an instinctive pro-European with over 40 years' involvement in voluntary work for the Conservatives, I was delighted to read the article by Mary Ann Sieghart, "Young, free and anti-single market" (February 26). I find it quite wrong that moderate members of the party such as myself should be labelled as right-wing xenophobes because we cannot support an early entry by the UK into economic and monetary union.

Should sterling be abandoned in favour of the euro, this country will have made an irreversible decision which will surely lead eventually to a federal Europe. This may come to be seen as the right economic answer within the next few years and, perhaps, in the longer term, also the right political answer. But the case is far from proven and I can only wish Mary Ann Sieghart, David Owen and their group every success in their campaign at least to delay the decision.

Yours etc,
G. TIMOTHY L. ROSE,
Ennerdale, Clifton,
Ashbourne DE6 2GR.
February 27.

From Mr Clive Webster

Sir, As one who trades with most EU countries and many in other continents, I believe that the euro, like the US dollar, should become an excellent vehicle for inter-European and international trade.

However, the concerns which were so well identified in your leader, "Five tests for Europe" (February 24), letters, February 25, 26, 27, could be largely overcome if only the European governments concerned had agreed to a longer and more flexible transition, with the euro running in tandem with national currencies.

Business leaders and politicians are becoming increasingly polarised in their views. Yet both sides have valid arguments which would be largely overcome if we were permitted a longer period of transition to prepare our economy for the single currency.

Voters in our referendum, when it comes, should not be presented with a "euro yes or no" question when they may well want to vote "yes" for the

euro and "no" or "not yet" for abolition of the pound. It would therefore be better to delay the referendum, too.

The problems outlined in your leader are of immense consequence for all EU countries; but there is a sixth test, namely the intention of the EU to incorporate the former Eastern bloc countries in a very few years. Bearing in mind the fact that unification had, and still has, on the German economy and the mark, we should remain very cautious about abolishing the pound until those countries are fully integrated into the EU and performing to the Maastricht criteria.

Yours faithfully,
CLIVE WEBSTER,
Clive Webster Limited,
Shoelands, Seale,
Farnham, Surrey GU10 1HL.
February 25.

From Mr B. E. Danton

Sir, The Danes initially voted against acceptance of the conditions set out in the Maastricht treaty. Subsequently these conditions were accepted after a second vote.

If, in the forthcoming referendum, the British people reject acceptance of the euro how many referenda will be necessary before, in the eyes of the Government, we "get it right"?

Yours sincerely,
B. E. DANTON,
20 Mere Close,
Newport, Shropshire TF10 7OL.
brian.danton@mere-close.freemove.co.uk
February 28.

From Mr Rupert Pepper

Sir, I see Mr Paddy Ashdown considers the Government has "crossed the Rubicon" with the Prime Minister's National Changeover Plan (report, February 24). Would this be the treacherous and megalomaniac act of Julius Caesar in 49BC, which plunged his powerful nation into years of civil wars and social and economic misery, earning its perpetrator a violent end within five years at the hands of his closest associates? Or does Mr Ashdown mean another Rubicon?

Yours faithfully,
RUPERT PEPPER,
Trinity College, Cambridge CB2 1TQ.
February 24.

Sale of art fakes

From Mr John Pittuck

Sir, While respecting David Gould's authority in the matter of fakes and original works of art (letter, February 22) I am not sure I can agree with his sweeping reference to much of modern art as "questionable rubbish".

What distinguishes the importance of any work of art, as I see it, lies not in the facility with which its technical style can be copied, but in less obvious and unscientific criteria. If it were otherwise the admired painstakingness of the Pre-Raphaelites would take precedence over the Impression-

ists and the uniqueness and invention of Matisse and Picasso among others.

Of course, the wheel needs to be sorted from the chaff in any age. Sadly, we find today a small handful of undeserving lightweights and their patrons receiving the bulk of the publicity. This should not detract from the many serious artistic developments in our time which will endure.

It is unfair to paint the majority of modern artists with the same brush.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN PITTUCK,
Hillside Cottage, 62 Dunmow Road,
Bishop's Stortford CM23 5HL.
February 22.

Labour and tax

From Mr R. Mallace

Sir, In the leaflet enclosed with my 1999-2000 tax coding, the Inland Revenue explains that (to use its example) a 60-year-old married man with a total annual income of £5,500, who previously paid no tax, will now have to pay £43 tax because of changes to the married man's allowance.

This from a Government whose venality would make many dictators gasp in envy.

Yours sincerely,
R. MALLACE,
3 Hinton House Farm Cottages,
Byfield, Daventry,
Northamptonshire NN11 3QT.
mallace@mcmail.com
February 23.

Nuclear power

From Sir Crispin Tickell

Sir, Sir James Hann (letter, February 10) is quite right to call for an "authoritative, independent study" on the future civil uses of nuclear energy. The Royal Institute of International Affairs has already identified this need, and I act as chairman of a steering group to set up just such a study with the institute's energy and environment programme.

We propose to run a series of workshops focusing on the more controversial topics, including waste disposal, safety, proliferation, economic viability and competition with other forms of energy. It would bring participants from a wide range of backgrounds together in a neutral forum.

The aim of these workshops is not to reach agreement between the different points of view, probably an impossible task, but to achieve a better understanding of the possibilities, in the hope that such information would help governments and the public worldwide to understand the issues and so help the decision-making process.

We look forward to support, both financial and moral, from Sir James and others who want an impartial scrutiny of the vital issues involved.

Yours faithfully,
CRISPIN TICKELL,
The Royal Institute of International Affairs,
10 St James's Square, SW1Y 4LE.

Biographers' place

From Mr F. G. R. Fisher

Sir, Where do biographers perch? This problem has exercised me for a number of years. It cropped up again today when I read in John Lowe's biography of John Sparrow (Harper-Collins, 1998): "When John came to Winchester . . . Other biographers speak of their subjects 'coming to Oxford' and a chapter or two later, 'coming to Liverpool'".

Do biographers actually seek lodging in these places before they pen the relevant paragraphs?

Yours faithfully,
ROBSON FISHER,
Craig Cottage, Daventry,
Lower Street, Dittisham,
Nr Dartmouth, Devon TQ6 0HY.
February 22.

From Sir Michael Moore,
Director General of the
Institution of Mechanical Engineers

Sir, What a good letter from Professor Ian Fells (February 10), advocating the virtue of nuclear power.

This institution was commissioned in June 1998 by the Engineering Council to produce views for the engineering profession and Government on energy for the 21st century. Nuclear energy is very much part of that equation.

However, we also need a balanced portfolio of primary fuels which recognises the UK's indigenous resources, coupled with the best available technologies, whether coal, gas, oil, nuclear or renewable energy.

How this can best be achieved in a market economy, which needs lowest-cost energy, has to be addressed by the politicians taking account of technical, economic and commercial advice.

We await action.
Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL MOORE,
Director General,
Institution of Mechanical Engineers,
1 Birdcage Walk, SW1H 9JJ.
m.moore@imeche.org.uk
February 10.

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Letters for publication may
be faxed to 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

End of 'subsidy' for classical music

From the Chief Executive of the Performing Right Society

Sir, The protest by Dr Donald Mitchell and five composers over our decision to cease subsidising live performances of classical music (letter, February 23) needs to be seen in context.

A report by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission in 1996 charged the Performing Right Society with making its distributions fairer, more accurate and more transparent. This has been achieved through an extensive two-year market research project which produced a statistically valid model for collecting performance information and for apportioning royalties more accurately than ever before.

We have therefore decided to remove all "hidden" special compensatory payments via royalty distributions, without value judgments which single out any particular genres of music. The phasing out of the classical music subsidy in its current form is in the same spirit of greater accuracy, fairness and transparency. Membership consultation has shown no majority support for a classical music subsidy.

The vast majority of our present subsidy to classical music is paid to music publishers and the estates of deceased composers, most of whom are not British. Far from the effect of its withdrawal being "devastating", only 11 per cent of it is paid to living British composers.

Although such subsidy will cease by 2002, we shall certainly continue supporting classical music, but in a more focused and transparent way.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HUTCHINSON,
Chief Executive,
Performing Right Society,
29-33 Berners Street, W1P 4AA.
February 22.

From Mr Trevor Glover and others

Sir, The implications of the unilateral decision by the PRS will affect contemporary classical music in this country for years to come. Such music involves major investment by publishers, especially in the preparation of performance materials for large orchestral forces, and there is usually a long period before a new classical work gains public recognition. These costs, often unrecovered for decades, are funded by the publishers' share of these very revenues, which this decision has cut almost in half.

This comes as the final straw, following a series of changes to PRS distribution methods in the last decade which have all had an adverse effect on classical earnings in the UK. For example, a typical performance of a 20-minute work in the Queen Elizabeth Hall which earned around £275 in 1994 currently earns £180; after removal of the subsidy, this sum will fall to around £50, shared between composer and publisher.

These are desperate days indeed for publishers, composers and their estates in Britain, and the PRS decision will be viewed with incredulity in the international world of music, which still regards the fundamental contribution of the UK publishing community to be a benchmark for the creation, encouragement and promotion of contemporary classical music. We urge the PRS board to suspend abolition of the subsidy.

Yours faithfully,
TREVOR GLOVER,
Managing Director, Bossey & Hawkes,
CHRIS BUTLER,
Director, Novello & Co.,
SALLY GROVES,
Head, Contemporary Music, Schott Ltd,
MARTIN KINGSBURY,
Director, Faber Music,
BEN NEWING,
Head, Business Affairs, Universal Edition,
JAMES RUSHTON,
Director, Chester Music,
295 Regent Street, W1R 8JH.
February 26.

Brit-spotting

From Lady Bowman

Sir, Mr M. D. Jervis asks if British women are as recognisable abroad as their male counterparts (letter, February 26; see also letters, January 29, February 6, 13, 18 and 20).

I can only report that, emerging from the sea at a trendy French beach having swum round from an adjoining cove, I was immediately addressed in English.

But could it have been because I was wearing a one-piece bathing dress with a skirt?

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTIAN BOWMAN,
The Waldean Garden,
Chamberlain Street,
Wells, Somerset BA5 2PE.
February 26.

From Mrs Carole Howman

Sir, Whilst holidaying in Paxos, I went for an early morning swim in the bay. Anchored about a quarter of a mile away was a magnificent yacht, which I swam towards and around.

When I had completed the circuit a guttural voice called out "Go away English woman!" Being from Yorkshire I proceeded to swim round three more times.

Yours sincerely,
CAROLE HOWMAN,
Hillbrow, Church Green,
Great Wymondley,
Hitchin, Hertfordshire SG4 7ES.
February 26.

OBITUARIES

LADY PANSY LAMB

Lady Pansy Lamb, writer, died on February 19 aged 94. She was born on May 18, 1904.

Daughter of an earl, bohemian, blue stock- ing and devoted fan of the Pope, Lady Pansy Lamb surprised everybody but herself. Painted almost continuously by her Bloomsbury husband, Henry Lamb, she retained the unselfconscious, amiable charm of her youth into her nineties. Her sister-in-law, Christine, the Countess of Longford, described her, seventy years before, as "a blonde angel, her eyes lakes of blue, and her 'tints' — as the Victorians would have called them — like wild roses".

But ideas were always more important to Pansy than appearances. Perhaps this made her the perfect subject for Henry Lamb, 20 years her senior and already once married to a famous Bloomsbury model and free spirit, Euphemia. Lamb had been Lady Ottoline Morrell's lover and Carrington's intimate, and in later years he entertained his nieces with stories of being chased round the rockery by Lytton Strachey, whose lust was constrained by his trousers falling round his knees.

Lady Pansy's feelings about her husband's Bloomsbury friends remain obscure, though she recently criticised their manners as "rather gauche". Nevertheless, at her 90th birthday party she fell into animated conversation with Frances Partridge.

England, by then, was only a holiday destination to her, for at the age of 75 her allegiance to Pope John Paul II prompted her to a new life in Rome, where she lived until her death.

Lady Margaret Pansy Felicia Lamb was the second child and eldest daughter of the Earl and Countess of Longford. (The family were embroiled by "that brute Cromwell", as John Benjamin put it.) Her younger brother, Frank Longford, inherited the earldom when his brother Edward died without an heir in 1961. Her younger sisters are the writers Lady Mary Clive, who published a memoir of her growing up, *Brought Up and Brought Out*, and Lady Violet Powell, who married the novelist Anthony Powell and also published a family memoir, *Five Out of Six*. The fourth sister, Lady Julia, was the mother of the Editor of *The Times Literary Supplement*, Ferdinand Mount. The Longfords were soldiers and sailors, and in 1915 the six



Henry Lamb's last portrait of his wife, Lady Pansy, dating from 1947

children became fatherless when the Earl of Longford was killed leading a charge at Gallipoli, pipe in mouth. His last words were: "I wish you would stop ducking Fred. The men don't like it and it doesn't do any good." Family life continued as before, divided between England, Aston Hall in Oxfordshire, London and Ireland, where the family home boasted 130 rooms and extensive castellations and turrets, plus water garden, Chinese gardens and long walls of hothouses. Throughout her life Lady Pansy paid it an annual visit.

School was not *comme il faut* for the older two girls, and Pansy's famously encyclopaedic knowledge arose from a passion for books and a phenomenal

memory. Her thirst for knowledge was certainly not satisfied by the world of London debutantes, where an earl's daughter was expected to find a husband in the Twenties, so the rebellious Pansy took a job in the office of the architect George Kennedy, through whom she met Henry Lamb. At that time she was sharing a flat with Evelyn Gardner, whom she introduced to Evelyn Waugh, which resulted in the disastrous union of she-Evelyn and he-Evelyn. While waiting in the countryside for their respective marriages to be arranged (Lamb needed a divorce first), Evelyn Waugh wrote *Deline and Foll* and Pansy began the first of two novels, *The Old Expedition*, which was even-

tually published bearing a cover drawing by Waugh.

The Lambs set up home at Coombe Bisset in Wiltshire in 1928 and as Anthony Powell said, "Henry threw himself into family life with the same sort of energy and enthusiasm he brought to everything he did." Soon they had three children, and because money was short (earl's daughters being on their own in that respect), Pansy continued her self-education by daily trips to Beches second-hand bookshop just outside the Close in Salisbury, where she found reading for hours. She had introduced her husband to a new circle of friends, including Lord David Cecil, Cecil Beaton, L. P. Hartley, Kenneth Clark and

John Betjeman, who began a poem, "Oh the calm of Coombe Bisset is tranquil and deep..."

During the war Lamb was an official war artist and Pansy discovered one of several important heroes in her life, Charles de Gaulle. Two other heroic Charleses, Charles I and the French Roman Catholic poet Charles Péguy, inspired her to write books. Her translation of Péguy's *The Holy Innocence* and other poems was published in 1936 and suggests that her later conversion to Catholicism was not the sudden decision that many supposed.

In 1960 Henry Lamb died, and Pansy moved in rather reduced circumstances to Notting Hill Gate in London, where she took in exotic, mostly Romanian lodgers, helped at a home for the blind and, in a team of academics under Humphrey House, worked at her most scholarly occupation, working on the letters of Dickens — another Charles — for the great Pelican Edition.

However, in 1981, aged 75, with her eyesight already failing, she announced that she was going to live in Rome so as to be near to Pope John Paul II, whose real name was Karol (Charles) Wojtyla. Shortly after arriving there, she was received into the Catholic Church, and she soon knew more about the Vatican's treasures than many lifelong residents.

Her flat, in the old quarter of Rome, was always ringing to the strains of Vatican Radio (in English, because she never mastered Italian — although she learnt Ancient Greek in her late seventies). The walls were covered with Henry Lamb's, the shelves filled with signed Evelyn Waugh's and the air was thick with smoke from the cigarettes she never abandoned.

Despite semi-blindness, she walked everywhere, an indomitable upright figure, proud to avoid death by Roman traffic. Several times a week she took up position under the portico of St Peter's as one of the official guides for English-speaking visitors. Three years ago, she enjoyed a private audience with the Pope, for which she swapped her usual red and brown peaked cap for a black lace mantilla, showing the depth of her feeling for the man whose "spiritual energy" she so admired. Her companion on that occasion noted that "she revered the Pope like a humble courier reverencing Louis XIV — as well as thoroughly enjoying the Vatican gossip". Lady Pansy Lamb is survived by two daughters and a son.

CLIVE BUTLER

Clive Butler, consulting surgeon to the London Hospital, 1937-69, died on January 25 aged 94. He was born on April 8, 1904.

NO PASSENGER on the maiden voyage of the *Queen Mary* in 1936 could have guessed that the handsome young ship's surgeon, Clive Butler, would soon be world-famous for his work with the first antibiotics. He was to serve more than 30 years as a surgeon at the London Hospital, sought after especially in cases of infection.

Edward Clive Barber Butler's parents had both trained at the London (his father as a doctor, his mother as a nurse) and both had helped to care for "the Elephant Man" after his rescue by Sir Frederick Treves. Clive was head boy at Shrewsbury before entering the London Hospital Medical College in 1923. There he met Howard Florey, a young Australian microbiologist who was later to share the Nobel Prize for his work on penicillin.

Butler qualified in 1928 and was trained in surgery by the legendary Russell Howard. In his seven months on the *Queen Mary* he crossed the Atlantic 30 times, making many friends, including Clifford Naughton Morgan, the colorectal surgeon, and Nancy Harrison, the vivacious American beauty who became his wife.

Out of the blue a vacancy arose at the London Hospital when a surgeon pricked his finger during an operation, developed a rapidly spreading infection and died, in spite of amputation first of the finger, and then of his arm, a grim but typical example of infection in the days before antibiotics. Butler was called in to take charge of the "septic block".

In those crowded wards the worst cases were those of osteomyelitis — infection of the bone — which was then treated by releasing the pus from the marrow cavity by cutting a deep gutter along the length of the infected bone and encasing the whole limb in plaster. This, regardless of stench or maggots, was not changed for weeks, in the hope of avoiding the septicæmia which killed 25 per cent of adults and 80 per cent of children.

Butler arrived in the wake of the discovery of the germ-killing effects of the red dye Prontosil, which was shown to be activated when it was changed in the body to sulphanilamide — which was easy to take and was not patented. It wrought miracles when infection was due to streptococcus, but not with staphylococcus, the usual cause of osteomyelitis. No one learnt faster than Butler, who reported 500 cases in a Hunterian Lecture in 1940.

Suddenly, in 1944, things changed when, thanks to his old friend Hugh Cairns, who was working with Florey in Oxford, Butler was given a limited supply of penicillin. None of his next 21 patients died, and he soon showed that it was safe to close the wound within 7-10 days. The months of soaking plaster were over.

Shortly after VE-Day the Government flew Butler and Alexander Fleming to Copenhagen to demonstrate the new methods. "Fleming was greeted with enormous enthusiasm," Butler wrote. "Little credit was given to the outstanding work done by Florey and his co-workers in Oxford during the war years. It is quite possible that never have been used on patients."

In the lulls between dealing with civilian casualties, Butler specialised in surgery of the large bowel and introduced new methods. He remained a general surgeon, but later developed a technique for removing cancers of the parotid gland, using an electric stimulator to protect the delicate branches of the facial nerve.

Rather shy, he was a courteous and popular teacher, with an engaging foible of humming *Lead, kindly light* when in difficulties with the sigmoidoscope. He was never ruffled, even when an explosion once singed his eyebrows. He became chairman of the Court of Examiners at the Royal College of Surgeons, and in retirement continued as curator of the whole limb in plaster. This, regardless of stench or maggots, was not changed for weeks, in the hope of avoiding the septicæmia which killed 25 per cent of adults and 80 per cent of children.

He was divorced in 1957, but he is survived by his daughter and two sons.

PROFESSOR DUNCAN MITCHELL

Duncan Mitchell, OBE, Professor of Sociology at Exeter University, 1967-85, died on January 25 aged 77. He was born on June 5, 1921.

AS A student at the London School of Economics after the war, Duncan Mitchell's studies included a course in sociology under Karl Popper, a class that produced a profusion of future sociologists.

In 1954, Mitchell was appointed to take charge of sociology in the philosophy department at Exeter, where, as the junior academic partner, responsible for a new subject and eager to expand it, he was aware of the danger of becoming a cuckoo in the departmental nest. Fortunately, the needs of his subject and his growing number of students were accommodated.

Extra staff were appointed, and Mitchell was made head of department in 1963, and Professor of Sociology in 1967. Among his publications are *Sociology: The Study of Social Systems* (1959) and *A Dictionary of Sociology* (1968), which was translated into some dozen languages.

Sociology at Exeter reflected Mitchell's eclecticism. Members of staff enjoyed academic reputations in very different areas, and a particularly successful innovation was the establishment of an Institute of Population Studies with Mitchell as director. His contribution to

the university was recognised by his appointment as Dean of the Faculty of Social Studies, as deputy vice-chancellor, and as acting vice-chancellor, 1972-73.

His service to the community was also outstanding. In 1967 he was one of the founders of the Devon Community Housing Society, which he chaired for 30 years. At first it aimed to accommodate families, but it later concentrated on homes for the elderly, the physically disabled, and people with learning difficulties or needing nursing care. Now the owner of more than 60 properties, it has specialised in converting empty buildings, such as a disused village school, and extending them into groups of homes for community living.

Mitchell was also a member of Dartmoor Prison's board of visitors, and served as chairman of the English Board of Visitors. He was particularly concerned for mentally ill prisoners, whom he considered to be in the wrong place for their own sakes and those of other inmates and prison staff. His speeches on this problem were not always favourably received by the Home Office. Nevertheless, he was appointed OBE in 1984.

He was a committed Christian all his life, and a lay preacher. He is survived by Margaret, his wife of 48 years, and by their son and daughter.

SIR GORDON JONES

Sir Gordon Jones, Chairman of Yorkshire Water, 1983-96, died on January 31 aged 71. He was born on February 17, 1927.

QUIET, caring and fun, Sir Gordon Jones was the ideal man, as chairman of the Water Authorities Association, to lead the ten water and waste water companies of England and Wales to successful privatisation in 1989. The selling to the public of a mixed bag of large, medium and small companies was unprecedented. The management teams sometimes bickered in public, but Gordon Jones harnessed the interests of boards of directors, government, banks, lawyers and accountants, and the eventual flotation was a success — perhaps because all of the big merchant banks, lawyers and stockbrokers in the City were themselves representing one or more of the companies or underwriting the offer.

Jones also continued as chairman of Yorkshire Water, where efficiency continued to improve. He was knighted in 1990. However, the company's reputation was dented in 1995, when an exceptional drought struck Yorkshire, raising the unacceptable prospect of restricting sup-

ply and using standpipes (though it never came to that). Hounded by an efficient Labour Opposition, the company was portrayed as the worst in an unpopular industry. Jones was the first to admit that its presentation had been poor.

Gordon Jones was born in Swansea, to which he returned when he retired in 1996. After Swansea University, and four years in the Royal Navy, he joined the British Iron and Steel Research Association, working on raw materials and energy planning. At Esso Petroleum, which he joined in 1960, he became head of British industry sales, before returning to the steel industry as managing director of Rotherham Tinsley Steel and Firth Vickers. In 1979 he became a director of T W Ward plc. He was a member of the Government's advisory committee on business and the environment, 1993-96.

He was also a governor of Leeds University, and his interest in young people's education and training was reflected by his honorary fellowship of the University College of Swansea, and an honorary DSC from Bradford University.

He married Gloria Melville in 1951. She survives him, along with their daughter and twin sons.

COLIN PURBROOK

Colin Purbrook, jazz pianist and double bass player, died in London on February 5, aged 62. He was born in Salford, Sussex, on February 26, 1936.

ANY American jazz musician visiting Britain who wanted a sympathetic and knowledgeable accompanist needed to look no further than Colin Purbrook. The list of world-famous musicians he played for during the 1960s and 1970s is remarkable and included Benny Carter, Dexter Gordon and Eddie Lockjaw Davis.

On the London stage he spent some months in 1987 at the Donmar accompanying the Memphis-born singer Dee Dee Bridgewater in her title role as "Lady Day", and not long before that he had directed the British band that took over from the original American musicians in the London production of *One Mo' Time*.

Last year, having won one battle in his long war against cancer, he proved that his talents were undimmed when he appeared at the Broom Festival and on Radio 3 with the all-star band Tunnus Gladness, with the American saxophonists Scott Hamilton, Ken Peplowski and Harry Allen, and the veteran swing drummer Jake Hanna.

Although Purbrook was happy in almost all styles of

traditional and mainstream jazz, he made his name in the forward-looking British modernist movement of the 1960s. Shortly after coming down from Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge, in 1957, he joined the iconoclastic clarinetist Sandy Brown. He began on bass but then switched to piano at a time when Brown's band was moving away from New Orleans revivalism to explore contemporary African high-life music and original compositions by the band's members.

After a couple of years in which he gathered experience as varied as playing in Kenny Ball's band and on the *Queen Mary*, he naturally fell in with the core of London's modern jazz musicians, in bands such as the Allan Ganley / Ronnie Ross Jazzmakers (with which he spent several short spells) and the quintet led by Ronnie Scott and the trumpeter Jimmy Deuchar. By 1961, Purbrook had formed a working partnership with the saxophonist Tuny Coe, and they worked together often in the 1960s, later becoming the association in the 1980s on the set of *Lady Day*, in which Coe played the grouchy saxophonist who was the foil for Bridgewater's portrayal of Billie Holiday.

Purbrook's stage career began in 1963, during a spell as double bassist in Dudley Moore's trio, which provided the musical component of the revue *Beyond*

the Fringe. The following year he played piano in the pioneering British modern jazz quintet jointly led by Don Rendell and Ian Carr, appearing on their album *Shades of Blue*. As the 1960s went on, he continued his association with Coe, both men appearing on a concert album cut in 1966 for the 77 label alongside the tenorist Tubby Hayes. By now he had begun working with the famous Americans, such as Benny Goodman, Chet Baker and Art Farmer.

In 1977 he became musical director of the show *Bubbling Brown Sugar*, which enjoyed an extended run at the Royal Theatre. He subsequently worked in several other shows, including *Rent Party* in 1989.

During the 1970s and 1980s, he often led his own bands, varying in size from a trio to a sextet, and his trio was frequently used by touring American soloists as a regular rhythm section. The theatrical and jazz sides of his work were most happily combined in his long association with the singer Annie Ross, whom he accompanied on and off for more than 25 years, including residencies within the last three years at the Pizza on the Park in Knightsbridge. His most recent recordings include the critically acclaimed 1996 *Sorin Album* with the tenor saxophonist Bobby Wellins.

His former wife and a son survive him.



Latest wills

Leslie Frederick Williams, of London W5, left estate valued at £2,273,141 net.
David Lewis Baldwin, of Tywyn, Gwynedd, left estate valued at £1,264,305 net.
Pamela Anne Chivers, of Cambridge, left estate valued at £1,092,109 net.
She left £500 each to Repton School, Repton Boys' Club, St Paul's School, Cambridge, Trinity Hall, Cambridge, RAF Benevolent Fund, RSPCA, RSPB, Cancer Research, St John's Hosp, NSECC, Barnard's, Save the Children Fund and WWF Fund UK.
Sidney Vincent Cope, of Colyton, Devon, left estate valued at £1,039,286 net.
Richard Alan James Emery, of Shoburyness, Essex, left estate valued at £1,149,724 net.
Roy Neil Gibbs, of London NW8, left estate valued at £1,340,036 net.
Phoebe Agnes Malet Hambleton, of Hyssington, Mon-

gomery, left estate valued at £1,098,447 net.
Malcolm Reginald Hardman, of Wokingham, left estate valued at £1,688,131 net.
Christopher Charles Harley, of Bucknell, Shropshire, left estate valued at £1,098,031 net.
He left £5,000 to Brampton Bryan Parochial Church Council, £500 to Brampton Bryan Parochial Church Council, £500 to Brampton Bryan Parochial Church Council.
John Lawson, of Prestbury, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, left estate valued at £865,917 net.
Lester Lea, retired farmer, of West Charlerton, Kingsbridge, Devon, left estate valued at £1,086,803 net.
Richard Marx, dental surgeon, of South Stoke, Bath, left estate valued at £1,028,160 net.
Edith Mary Meyers, of Bishop's Hull, Taunton, Somerset,

left estate valued at £1,029,600 net.

She left £10,000 to Guide Dogs for the Blind, Esherbrook School, of Harnham, London NW3 left estate valued at £1,004,571 net.

Eva Mary Sumley, of Turro, Cornwall, left estate valued at £1,603,059 net.

She left £10,000 to the Lions Club of Truro, £5,000 to Devon and Cornwall Air Cadet Community Trust plus her residuary estate to the Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation.

Adeline Constance Tristram, of Eastbourne, left estate valued at £1,029,254 net.

She left £10,000 to both the RNLI and Guide Dogs for the Blind.

John Lewis Turner, of Singleton, Chichester, West Sussex, left estate valued at £1,562,461 net.

Margaret Hamilton Turner, of Keighley, West Yorks, left estate valued at £1,324,905 net.

Michael Waller Beaufort Craig Waller, of London SW10, left estate valued at £1,297,646 net. He left £1,000 to King Edward VII Hospital for Officers.

OPERA MERGER PROPOSED

THE Sadler's Wells Trust has proposed that its opera company should be amalgamated with the Carl Rosa Opera Company. If the proposal is adopted, a single company will serve both the provinces and Sadler's Wells Theatre.

The proposal was made known yesterday to the staff of Sadler's Wells Theatre in a statement from Mr James Smith, chairman of the Sadler's Wells Trust. It was read by the director, Mr Norman Tucker, who later announced that, because of the proposed new policy, he had resigned, together with Mr Stephen Arlen, general manager of the theatre, and Mr Alexander Gibson, the recently appointed music director. The resignations would take effect in July, at the end of the present contract period.

It was also announced that Mr John Wyckham, production manager and stage director of the opera company, had resigned. In his statement, Mr Smith said: "For some time past it has been apparent that the continually rising cost of presenting opera in this country might cause some curtailment of the activities of both the Carl Rosa and the Sadler's Wells companies, both

ON THIS DAY

March 1, 1958

The Carl Rosa Opera Company, which did much to popularise opera in Britain, was again in difficulties, but by no means finished.

of which receive substantial subsidies from the Arts Council. But the subsidies now available are insufficient to maintain two companies at their present levels and it does not appear possible for them to proceed as separate organizations after the early summer of 1958 when existing contracts end.

In order to provide the widest possible coverage both in London and the country, the proposal is now being considered that the Sadler's Wells and Carl Rosa organizations should combine to set up a new trust representing both bodies. The new trust, with one opera company, would undertake a tour

in the autumn of 1958 and a London season in the spring of 1959, followed by a further provincial tour.

Should terms prove more propitious in the future it may be possible to return to the position in which two companies can again be maintained.

The proposal means that one orchestra, one chorus, and one set of principals will be employed; it is to be presumed that these forces will be drawn from both companies, but many musicians will be without work as a result of the amalgamation.

Representatives of Equity and of the Musicians' Union said that their organizations would resist to the utmost the proposed changes.

In the statement announcing their resignations, Mr Tucker, Mr Arlen, and Mr Gibson expressed the view that the proposed new policy "means the cessation of the policy pursued by Sadler's Wells since its opening in 1931, operating primarily as a metropolitan house and, since the war, in a complementary capacity to Covent Garden."

The statement went on: "Moreover, in spite of the re-employment that may be offered in individual cases, it involves the disbanding of the opera company which has been carefully built up over a long period and whose presence has never stood higher than at the present time."

1980



McRae and Ford have that winning focus.

Page 26



Ruseas's power failure Battersea

It's my ball and I'm taking it home

Page 25

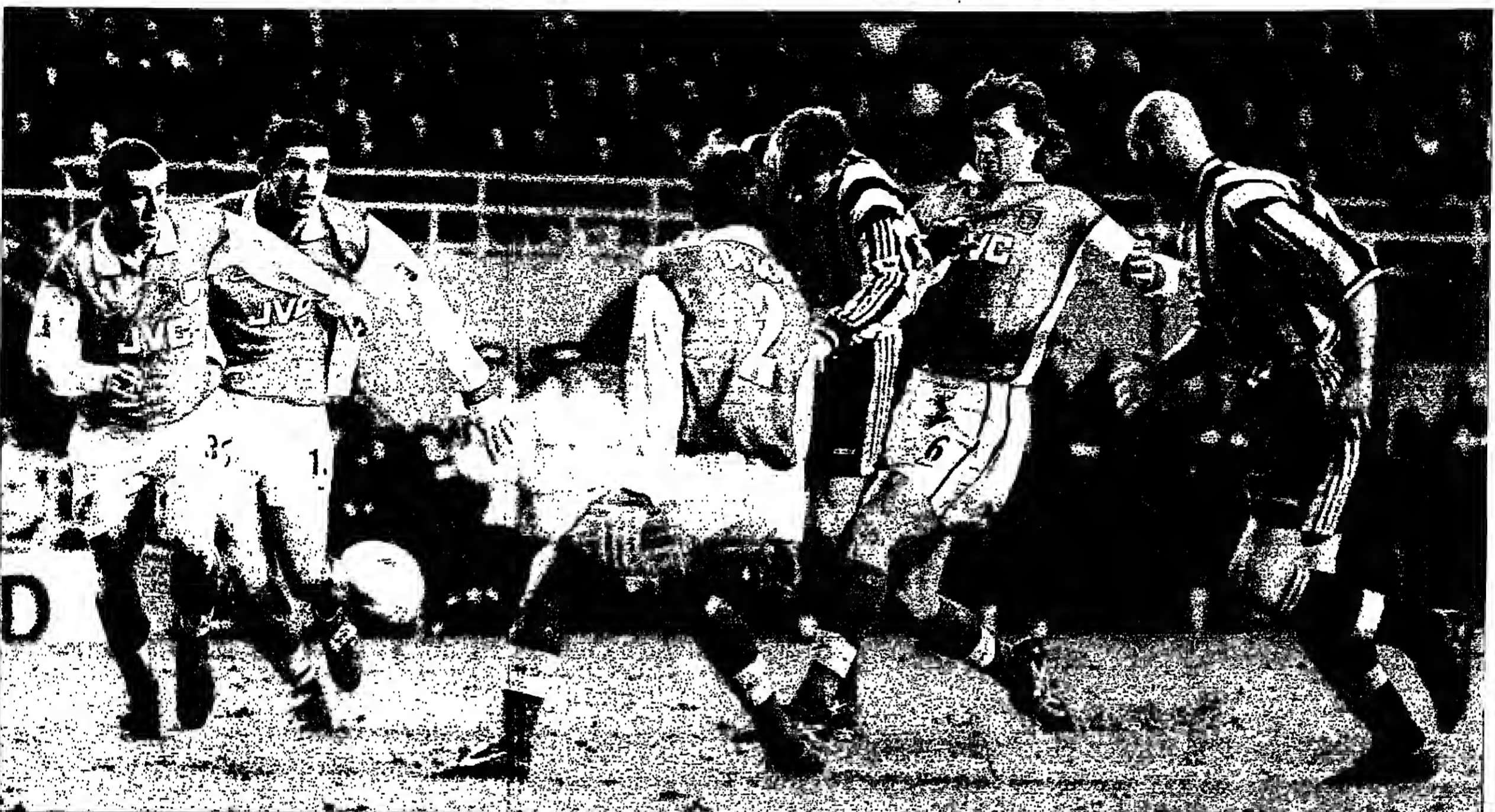


TIMES SPORT

MONDAY MARCH 1 1999

HAMANN STRIKES LATE TO

HALT ARSENAL'S CHARGE



Hamann withstands the challenge of Adams, the Arsenal central defender, to power Newcastle United's equalising goal past Seaman at St James' Park yesterday and add another twist to the FA Carling Premiership title race. Photograph: John Giles

Le Saux faces trial by television

GRAEME LE SAUX, Chelsea's England defender, could face trial by television after referee Paul Durkin admitted that he would have sent him off had he seen his alleged elbow attack on Robbie Fowler. Durkin missed the off-the-ball incident during Chelsea's 2-1 win over Liverpool at Stamford Bridge on Saturday and will not be including it in his report to the Football Association. The official, from Portland, has since seen the clash on television, in which Le Saux appeared to elbow Fowler on the back of the head. "I can assure everyone that if I had seen it Le Saux would have been sent off," he said. "But neither I nor my assistant referee saw it. What happens now is down to the FA." The FA has used video evidence against players before, such as when John Hartson kicked Eyal Berkovic during a training session at West Ham United, and Le Saux could face disciplinary action. The BBC will provide the FA with a tape of the incident if asked. Steve Double, the FA spokesman, said: "It is an option while there is also the fourth official's match report to consider." The incident was the culmination of a running battle between Le Saux and the Liverpool striker.

Pressure starts to take toll on champions

BY OLIVER HOLT
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THEY fled the Tyneside gloom as quickly as they could last night. All but Dennis Bergkamp highlighted it out of St James' Park and headed for the airport and their flight back to London. Some of them moaned half-heartedly about the pitch, horribly heavy and devilishly rutted, but every Arsenal player mourned a more important piece of lost ground. In other circumstances, perhaps, a hard-fought 1-1 draw with a Newcastle United side that is threatening a modest resurgence might not have been cause for despondency for Arsène Wenger and his side, but such is the pace that Manchester United, Chelsea and Arsenal have been setting at the top of the FA Carling Premiership as the chase for the title approaches its climax that the two points the champions dropped yesterday, courtesy of a late equaliser by Dietmar Hamann, acquired the air of a significant setback.

United, who rested three players in advance of their European Cup quarter-final first leg with Internazionale on Wednesday, squeezed past the desperate challenge of Southampton at Old Trafford to record their eighth win in ten unbeaten league games and maintain their four-point lead at the top of the table.

Chelsea, who seemed to have been clinging on to their own challenge like a boxer beginning to feel the effect of too many punches, defied those



Wenger knows his team cannot afford mistakes

who doubt them with some invigorating football as they outplayed Liverpool at Stamford Bridge. Those results heaped the pressure on Arsenal, the only one of the trio who have no European fixtures to dilute their commitment, to continue their own remarkable recent sequence of results in the North East and stay in touch. They seemed to have succeeded when Nicolas Anelka, who is so full of confidence that he seems to think he is going to score every time he gets the ball, claimed his sixth goal in four league games nine minutes before half-time, when he capitalised on successive mis-

UNITED IN THE TITLE CHASE

Since their last defeat - at home to Middlesbrough on December 13 - Manchester United have set a fierce pace at the top of the FA Carling Premiership, taking 26 points out of a possible 30. Arsenal and Chelsea have tried their best to match them over that 10-match period but Aston Villa have found the going too tough and have dropped out of contention.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MANCHESTER UNITED 26 (Last 10 matches)	16	9	3	3	63	29	57
CHELSEA 27	14	11	2	1	41	22	53
ARSENAL 27 (Last 10 matches)	13	11	3	1	35	13	50
ASTON VILLA 27 (Last 10 matches)	7	3	0	18	3	24	24
	12	8	7	38	31	44	
	3	2	6	11	14	11	

ANELKA'S GOLDEN MONTH

For club and country Nicolas Anelka has enjoyed February, scoring 8 goals in 6 matches, and given Arsenal's title charge a cutting edge.

Date	Goals	Match
Feb 6	2	West Ham 0 Arsenal 4
Feb 11	2	England 0 France 2
Feb 17	1	Manchester United 1 Arsenal 2
Feb 20	3	Arsenal 6 Leicester 0
Feb 23	0	Arsenal 2 Sheffield Utd 1
Feb 28	1	Newcastle 1 Arsenal 2

mistakes. We are still in a good position and we have a game in hand, but it will be a hard battle."

Arsenal's uncharacteristic surrender of a lead cast a shadow over what had been until then a superbly disciplined, resolute performance. Martin Keown and Tony Adams, the heart of a defence that has conceded only 13 goals all season, were heartless in the subjugation of Alan Shearer, unyielding in their domination of the England centre forward.

Patrick Vieira, too, was outstanding at the hub of the side, leading the way in the pressing that joined the home team out of its commendable attempt to play neat, passing football.

Despite the greater flamboyance of United and Chelsea, the suspicion remains that Arsenal have the best balance, the most resilience for the 11-game run-in. The combination of their near-unbreachable defence and the explosive-ness of the partnership between Bergkamp and Anelka is close to irresistible.

Once, perhaps, Rued Gullit might have been in the thick of it himself, but when he was asked for his opinion on the latest twist in the title race, the Newcastle manager offered a wistful smile. "I have other sorrows now," he said. "Too many worries to be interested in that." Like the joys of others, Gullit spread his sorrow around on Tyneside last night.

Match report, page 29
Inter showdown, page 31

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SNOOKER

Higgins on course in title defence

By Phil Yates

JOHN HIGGINS, winner of the Liverpool Victoria Charity Challenge last year, was on course to make a successful title defence when he established a 6-2 lead over Ronnie O'Sullivan at the Assembly Rooms in Derby yesterday.

Since making his career breakthrough by becoming Grand Prix champion at the same venue in October 1994, Higgins has matured into a fearsome opponent. He has figured in 26 finals, lifted 13 trophies and amassed over £1.7 million in prize-money.

This maturity came to the fore when, earlier this month, he recovered from an 8-6 deficit to defeat Ken Doherty 10-8 in the final of the Benson and Hedges Masters at Wembley and again on Saturday when he edged Doherty 6-5 in the semi-finals.

"I want to win every tournament I enter these days," Higgins said. "It becomes a habit and you become greedy for more."

O'Sullivan, beaten 9-8 by Higgins in the final last year, entered the mid-session interval at 2-2, but generally lacked the sharpness he displayed in beating Jimmy White 6-4 in their semi-final.

A run of 65 enabled Higgins to win the fifth frame and he moved into a 4-2 lead with a 62 break in the sixth. O'Sullivan did not score a point in the seventh, but should have salvaged the eighth.

After fluking a snooker with just the colours remaining, he missed the yellow and Higgins cleared to pink to carry a commanding advantage into the final session.

SEAN FURLONG, O'Sullivan (Eng) 6-4, J. White (Wls) 6-4, J. Higgins (Scot) 6-5, Doherty (Ire) 6-5.

□ Kelly Fisher, of Pontefract, completed a 4-1 victory over Julie Giespie in the final of the national women's championship with a break of 53.

MOTOR RALLYING

Ford bask in glow of McRae's victory

FROM JEREMY HART IN NAIROBI

GRILLED under the Kenyan sun and dusted by the rooster tails of red Rift Valley dirt thrown up by a hundred cars, the African spectators watching the Safari Rally this weekend knew exactly who they wanted to win. "Mike Tyson" they sang in unison.

Wrong sport, right idea. The winner yesterday of the world's toughest rally was about as predictable as the pugilist.

Just a month after being branded pariahs for using an illegal water pump when their orange, blue and white Focus made its debut in Monte Carlo, Ford's bumble bee was turned into champagne by rallying's £6 million man, Colin McRae, who romped across Kenya's rocky bush to win by a country mile and put a smile back on the faces of his team, as well as one of horror on those of his rivals.

"Colin is now my greatest threat for the championship," Tommi Makinen, the winner of five of the previous six rallies, said. "It is great for the sport to see Colin win, but worrying for everyone else." More so after Makinen, who finished second, was subsequently disqualified for receiving

help when his Mitsubishi suffered a puncture on Friday. The championship leader claimed that the spectators were more of a hindrance than a help.

McRae's winning margin was seven minutes. At the start of the final leg, south of Nairobi, he was almost a quarter of an hour ahead of Makinen, the three-times world champion, but the Finn was on a charge and McRae had to nurse a sick engine through 200 miles of the harshest stages in the world.

"It was heart-in-the-mouth stuff," a twitchy Malcolm Wilson, whose M-Sport outfit in Cumbria has built the first winning Ford in 18 months, said. "We told Colin to take it easy and he did it."

Already out before the final stages yesterday were Richard Burns, the early leader, whose Subaru ground to a halt with a broken suspension, and Freddy Loix, of Belgium, who crashed his Mitsubishi at 100mph. Little wonder that McRae was uncharacteristically apprehensive as he bounced over the last few jarring miles.

"I have never been as nervous going for a win," the Scot



McRae, left, and Nicky Grist, his co-driver, are weighed down by the spoils of victory

said. "I was listening out for every noise coming from the car. I only relaxed after the second-to-last stage. The final one was just a couple of kilometres long."

Within an hour of his first win for Ford, McRae was predicting possible victories in the Acropolis Rally in Greece in the summer and perhaps earlier. "The fact we brought a new car to the Safari, the hardest and toughest rally of all, and won is fantastic," McRae said. "Before we came out here I

would have been surprised with a win, but now we have found the car is very strong and fast. Third in Sweden and first here shows that. The rest of the season is now looking good."

Beneficiaries of Makinen's disqualification were the three Toyota drivers, Didier Auriol, Carlos Sainz and Ian Duncan. It was Toyota who protested about Makinen's outside assistance in what was seen as revenge for the Finn escaping punishment in Australia last

year, when he jumped the start of a stage and went on to win the title. "Tommi did something wrong and it is only fair to be punished for it," Sainz said.

Fifth was McRae's rookie team-mate, Petter Solberg, of Norway. Drafted in to replace the injured Thomas Rådström, Solberg is regarded as a future champion.

For the second year in succession, SEAT gained the final championship point with sixth place for Harri Rovanpera.

Gauteng collapse against Cosker's spin

WANDERERS (final day of four): England A beat Gauteng by 10 wickets

CRICKET

From Thrasy Petropoulos in Johannesburg

ENGLAND A travel to Cape Town today for the concluding match of their tour, against a strong President's XI at Newlands, with their unbeaten record reinforced by a comprehensive win over Gauteng yesterday.

Having been forced to follow-on on Saturday, Gauteng, with nine wickets remaining, still had hopes of saving the game. But once Adam Bacher had chipped Dean Cosker to mid-wicket

and watched Darren Maddy take a good diving catch, they had no answer to the combination of Cosker's left-arm spin and the pace of Darren Thomas, who bowled 140 for one to 211 all out against the Glamorgan pair, England A, needing only 27 to win.

knocked off the runs in less than three overs and won with over a session to spare.

After Graeme Swann's spell of four wickets for one run to polish off the tail in the Gauteng first innings on Saturday, it was the turn of his spin partner,

Cosker, to shine yesterday, completing a well deserved five-wicket haul as he exploited a wearing surface.

Andre Seymour and Derek Crookes, who are in South Africa's provisional squad of 19 for the World Cup, both fell to Cosker and the lower-order players were quickly swept aside.

□ The England Under-19 team made a poor effort at scoring 221 from 43 overs to win the second one-day international at Westpac Trust Park and were bowled out for 136, allowing New Zealand to square the series.

GOLF

Journeymen emerge to contest jackpot

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT IN CARLSBAD, CALIFORNIA

WEEKEND golfers the world over were playing for money yesterday but none, not even those at Sunningdale where the bets sometimes resemble the loans to a third-world country, was playing for anything like as much money as Andrew Magee and Jeff Maggert. These two Americans were playing one another over 36 holes here at La Costa for the biggest golfing prize of their lives. Money talks at this resort, a hedonist's playground, but it has seldom talked as loudly as this.

At stake was \$1 million, the prize for the winner of the final of the Andersen Consulting World Match Play Championship. It is a huge amount of money and when the total purse of \$5 million was announced it was expected that men such as Tiger Woods, David Duval, or Ernie Els would feature in the final. But one of the striking features of this event that started last Wednesday with 64 of the leading 65 players in the world in the field, has been the culling of the seeds.

Maggert and Magee were two of the less fancied competitors. Magee has won four events in his 15-year professional career and Maggert, who turned professional in 1986, only one — and that in unusual circumstances. He took the 1993 Walt Disney Oldsmobile in Florida by holing out on a green that was illuminated by car headlights.

Maggert is 24th in the world rankings and Magee, who was born in Paris and has Scottish and Irish antecedents, 55th. They have one Ryder Cup appearance, between them, and neither has won a tournament for four years.

"One meeeeeeellionnn dollars!" Magee, an engaging and laconic man, who chipped in to defeat John Huston in his semi-final, said. "I like money. Money is the motivating factor. I never strive to be No 1 in the world and if I'm not No 1 after 15 years out here, I'm probably never going to be."

Maggert gives the impression of being tightly in control of himself at all times. His golf

swing is firm and he does not hit the ball all that far nor all that high. He overpowers courses by stealth rather than by the full frontal attack of, say, Greg Norman or Woods. "Winning the golf tournament is going to mean a lot more to me than the million dollars," Maggert, who was 35 nine days ago, said, even though he has never won anything like \$1 million in an entire season, never mind one week.

Maggert was the first to strike in the final, paring the opening hole to win it and then making birdie at the second to take a two-hole lead, which was contrary to the evidence of the week. Maggert, usually a slow starter, was three down after 11 holes of his semi-final against Steve Pate and had slipped back to be two down to Magee after 18 holes



Maggert has won only one tournament on the US tour

of the final. He has invariably played the second nine strongly. He had won 24 holes in all before the final, 14 on the home ward nine, which he had played in ten under par.

"When you get down in matchplay, you have to go out and make something happen," Maggert said. "In strokeplay, three strokes behind is not a significant margin. I can make an eagle and the man I'm chasing can bogey. But in matchplay if you win a hole by one stroke or three strokes it doesn't matter. Three down is a significant margin."

RESULTS (all United States): Semi-final: J. Maggert 6-5 Pate 1 hole. A. Magee 6-4 J. Huston 3 holes.

SPORT IN BRIEF

■ **BOWLS:** Carol Ashby, who reached the women's world indoor singles final last April, took the England Under-31 singles title at Exeter, when she held off a tremendous fightback from Debbie Talbot to win the final, 21-20. Ashby, the 1998 senior champion, looked home and dry when she led 15-3 after 11 ends, but Talbot, who has been playing on the crown greens of Yorkshire since she was 12, but now plays on the flat at Barnsley, Metrodome during winter, levelled the scores at 15-15, after 18. Talbot took the lead at 20-19, but Ashby coolly drew two perfect bowls on the 25th to edge home.

■ **BASKETBALL:** England's reputation as one of the most improving nations in Europe was reflected in the narrow margin of their defeat by Israel in the semi-finals of the European championship on Saturday (Nicholas Harling writes). "If the free throws had gone in, the game would have been ours," Laszlo Nemeth, the coach, said after Israel's 79-76 victory in Tel Aviv.

■ **GOLF:** Karrie Webb, of Australia, broke the US LPGA scoring record by three strokes yesterday when she finished on 262, 26 under par, to win the Australian Ladies Masters at the Royal Pines course, on the Gold Coast. Webb's score also bettered Laura Davies's European Tour record of 25 under par set at the 1995 Irish Open in Dublin. Janice Moodie, of Scotland, finished second, ten shots behind Webb.

■ **BADMINTON:** Simon Archer and Joanne Goode produced their finest sequence of performances as a partnership and boosted their prospects for the All England championships in two weeks' time when they reached the final of the World Grand Prix championships in Brunei yesterday, only to fall 15-6, 15-9 against the South Koreans, Kim Dong Moon and Ra Kyung-Min.

■ **SAILING:** Marc Thiercelin, of France, was expected to reach the Falkland Islands yesterday on board *Somewhere*, his damaged Open 60, which was dismantled last week as he was leading the Around Alone Race (Edward Gorman writes). Thiercelin is determined to finish the race and plans are afoot to fly a new mast and sails out to the islands from France on Thursday.

Informative:

With effect from 1 March 1999 the following interest rates will apply:

TESA			
All credit balances	Previous Rate	New Rate	
Interest paid annually	6.55% AER (Tax free)	6.00% AER (Tax free)	

High Interest Savings Account (including 30 day account)			
	Previous Rate	New Rate	
Credit Interest	AER	Gross % p.a.	Net % p.a.
Interest paid monthly			
£1 to £499	3.00%	2.96%	2.50%
£500 to £2,499	3.50%	3.45%	2.96%
£2,500 and over	3.75%	3.69%	3.20%

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	Previous Rate	New Rate	
Credit Interest	AER	Gross % p.a.	Net % p.a.
Interest paid quarterly			
£1 to £2,499	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%
£2,500 to £4,999	3.50%	3.46%	3.21%
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AER: Annual Equivalent Rate is a national rate which illustrates what the gross rate would be if interest was paid and compounded each year. Tax free: the rate payable where the interest is exempt from the tax applicable to interest on savings. Gross: the rate before the deduction of tax applicable to interest on savings. First Direct is a division of Midland Bank plc. Member RSCB Group.

AN EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION THE TIMES

WIN A VIP TRIP TO CHELTENHAM



Tony McCoy on Champleve winning last year's Guinness Arkle Chase

The Cheltenham Festival, the highlight of the National Hunt racing calendar, is just two weeks away and *The Times* has teamed up with leading brewers and Festival sponsors Guinness to offer readers the chance to win a pair of VIP tickets to the National Hunt Festival on Tuesday, March 16. The lucky winner and a guest will travel to the racecourse in style by helicopter from Battersea heliport.

THE WINNER'S DAY:

- they arrive by helicopter at Cheltenham racecourse in time for coffee and drinks before lunch
 - enjoy VIP treatment in the Festival Suite in the main grandstand, including pints of cool Guinness and afternoon tea
 - return flight to Battersea by helicopter
- The winner will be notified a week before the race so they will have plenty of time to prepare for the big day.



HOW TO ENTER

Simply call our competition hotline below before midnight on Thursday, March 4 with your answer to the following question:

Which jockey won last year's Guinness Arkle Chase?

- a) Richard Dunwoody
b) Norman Williamson
c) Tony McCoy

The winner will be chosen at random from all correct entries received. Normal TNL competition rules apply.

COMPETITION HOTLINE
0640 678 889

1550 122 154 from the Irish Republic
0640 CALLS COST 60p PER MINUTE 1550 CALLS COST 50p PER MINUTE

CHANGING TIMES

Sri Lanka find third captain

SRI LANKA were compelled to name a replacement captain twice within a few hours yesterday after Arjuna Ranatunga was ruled out of this week's Asian Test championship match against Pakistan with a hamstring injury.

In Ranatunga's absence Aravinda de Silva was named to lead the side in the final round-robin Test starting in Lahore on Thursday. Then he himself had to withdraw through injury on the final day of the game against India in Colombo yesterday.

Hashan Tillekeratne has now been named captain. Sri Lanka will face Pakistan without many of their key players. Apart from Ranatunga and de Silva, Chaminda Vaas is being rested while Sanath Jayasuriya and Muttiah Muralitharan are injured. Sachin Tendulkar scored his nineteenth Test century yesterday to remain unbeaten on 124 as India and Sri Lanka ground out a draw in the second match of the triangular series. India reached 306-5 after being 59-1 overnight.

Scoreboard, page 39

Atherton in line for World Cup recall

BY RICHARD HOBSON

MICHAEL ATHERTON, omitted from the recent Carlton & United one-day series in Australia, is expected to be recalled when England, the host country, become the first of the nine Test-playing nations to announce their World Cup squad today.

David Graveney, the chairman of selectors, has confirmed that a list of 15 names will be released at Lord's this morning.

With a series of fitness tests organised before departing for Pakistan for a triangular tournament in Sharjah on March 29 — effectively a World Cup warm-up — England can still make alterations before the selection deadline of March 31. This will be especially relevant for Atherton and Graham

Thorpe, who have back problems.

It is unlikely that anybody outside the initial squad of 30 will feature in the tournament, which begins on May 14. The selection of Atherton, with a one-day international average of 35.1 from 54 games, would reflect the need for somebody who can complement the more aggressive batsmen.



الحكايا من التراث

TENNIS

Dubious tactics fail to bring down Krajicek

By Julian Muscat, Tennis Correspondent

RICHARD KRAJICEK could afford to be magnanimous. A tactic of dubious legitimacy from Greg Rusedski had transformed the Briton's fortunes of the match before Krajicek, the better player throughout this final of the Guardian Direct Cup, regrouped to collect the sixteenth title of his career.

Rusedski himself would have savoured the quality of service that had swept Krajicek to the brink of victory. The hard part was complete. Krajicek merely had to hold serve, as he had throughout the match, for two more games to cash the \$128,000 (\$20,000) winner's cheque. But after another ace, his 26th of the match, took him to 15-0, Rusedski delved into a murky world.

In mock protestation, Rusedski summoned a ball-girl, Victoria Lister, to rally with Krajicek, the move plainly aimed at fracturing his opponent's concentration. It worked. Deterred, to much crowd bawling, by a 14-stroke rally, which was comfortably the longest in the match, Krajicek then resumed — only to lose ten of the next 11 points. The two players were thus locked together at 4-4, with every prospect of a tie-break to settle a match that was firmly in Krajicek's grasp.

Krajicek's expression, when he then trailed 3-0, on serve, in the next game, told a very different story to the one that he would tell at the contest's conclusion. In the end, Krajicek, who rallied to lead 6-5, broke a flagging Rusedski to win 7-6, 6-7, 7-5 after two hours and six minutes of largely uninspiring tennis.

There was a hint of sarcasm in his voice when, in the post-match interview on court, he said: "The next time Greg is serving me off the court I know what to do: just get a ball-girl to go out and play." Later, while suggesting that Rusedski might have indulged the crowd when he trailed 4-0, rather than 15-0, Krajicek blamed himself for the lapse in concentration. "It was a rookie mistake on my part," he said. "I thought it would be OK but I shouldn't have done it."

He also revealed that, in those difficult moments, he drew on the memory of his compatriot, Menno Oosting, who was killed in a car crash last week. "I wanted to win it for Menno so badly," he said. Krajicek, seeded No 4, attended Oosting's funeral in Son, near Eindhoven, on Saturday morning before returning to London to beat Thomas Johansson in the semi-finals.

Rusedski, for his part, made light of an incident which, in contrast to the smiling cartoon character he had portrayed all week, revealed a rare glimpse of his cold, calculating mind. "It is no big deal," he insisted. "I have had it happen to me before." However, when pressed to elaborate, the man with a memory bordering on encyclopaedic could not remember. The gambit employed by

Williams prevails over Mauresmo

SERENA WILLIAMS, of the United States, clinched her first WTA Tour title when she beat Amelie Mauresmo, of France, 6-2, 3-6, 7-6, in the Paris Open final. The 17-year-old was too strong for Mauresmo, who had won through after tough matches against Martina Hingis, the world No 1, and Dominique Van Roost, of Belgium.

Rusedski, seeded No 3, was far from unique. Boris Becker and Andre Agassi have used it, as did Goran Ivanisevic when hopelessly outplayed by Mark Philippoussis in the 1997 final at Queen's.

Yet none resorted to it when their matches remained so delicately balanced. Rusedski's calculated set was almost certainly prompted by his unbridled desire to triumph before a domestic audience — just as he mistakenly insisted on playing Wimbledon with one sound ankle eight months ago.

There was no doubt that Krajicek deserved his victory. In the opening set he stayed with Rusedski during the Briton's only spell of dominant serving. The ensuing tie-break, the twelfth since they first squared up six years ago, was effectively settled when Krajicek conjured a stinging backhand cross-court pass to reach set point with his service to come.

From that point Rusedski appeared to labour. To his credit, he pulled the second set from the fire when, in another tie-break, Krajicek double-faulted when seemingly in the ascendancy. Opportunities were precious; when they came, they were usually neutralised by heavy serving.

In that respect, Krajicek gave Rusedski a taste of his own medicine: he dished out 30 aces to the Briton's 10.

Rusedski and Tim Henman now head to California for the Newsweek Champions Cup, where Rusedski must defend 337 ranking points for reaching the final 12 months ago. Despite a stop-start first two months of the season, he has scrambled well: he should remain at No 10 when the world rankings are updated this morning. Henman is expected to stay at No 7.



Krajicek celebrates his hard-fought victory over Rusedski at Battersea yesterday

British pair double the interest

GREG RUSEDSKI gained a measure of compensation for his singles defeat by Richard Krajicek when he combined with Tim Henman to win the doubles event yesterday (Julian Muscat writes). The Great Britain pairing won in straight sets over Wayne Ferreira of South Africa, and Byron Black, of Zimbabwe.

To the delight of a vocal London crowd, Rusedski and

Henman captured Black's service midway through the opening set to secure the only break in the match. They then rallied from 3-6 down in the second-set tie-break to win five successive points, and with them, the match, 6-3, 7-6. It was the first time that the two Britons have contested a doubles tournament.

Rusedski and Henman used the event to prepare for

Great Britain's Davis Cup tie, against the United States, in Birmingham in April, when they are expected to renew their alliance in the doubles rubber. Rusedski never dropped service over the four matches he and Henman played here.

Henman, whose service was captured just once, said: "I think we have surprised ourselves a little bit."

Kleinendorst standing by Storm troopers

Alan Lee reports on the ice hockey coach who has transformed the fortunes of Britain's biggest club

Manchester's significant minority, the increasing thousands for whom there is now more to sport than Old Trafford, will be relieved to learn that the eloquent American who has given them an arresting new identity intends to finish what he started. On the morning after the biggest and most influential club in British ice hockey officially became the best, Kurt Kleinendorst was already planning new horizons for Manchester Storm.

Europe is one challenge to conquer, the nurturing of British talent another, and Kleinendorst wants to stay and see it through. The Minnesotan arrived two years ago when playing inadequacy was threatening to vanquish the grand vision in Europe's largest indoor venue. His contract as coach and general manager has only a one-year option remaining, but Kleinendorst had words of reassurance for Storm's phenomenal support.

"I am happy and settled here and I have no plans to move on," he said yesterday. "There is a lot more to be achieved and it would take a special offer to get me away. I won't sort things out until the season is over, but I'm already thinking of next year."

Kleinendorst was at a Neil Diamond concert on Saturday night and emerged to hear that Cardiff Devils' forlorn pursuit of their team had ended with a 5-4 defeat at Bracknell. Manchester were champions of the Sekonda Superleague with three games still to play and the potentially dramatic fixture away to Cardiff last night was an irrelevance.

Manchester led the league virtually from first to last, losing only one of 19 home games within an otherwise fiercely competitive league. Their inheritance from Ayr, who have

fallen heavily from their grand-slam exploits of a year ago, seldom seemed in doubt but, with the most lavish facilities and enviable support and sponsorship, their triumph is a necessary landmark in the renaissance of the sport.

The league trophy will be presented before the home match with Nottingham on Thursday and the force of the Storm can be measured by the fact that more than 10,000 seats have already been sold. "It will be a special night," Kleinendorst said, "one of those occasions when you come out and think 'wow, that was really something'." One such night, three weeks ago, can now be seen to have secured the title for Manchester.

Their last home game with Cardiff came with the teams level on points and the Welsh club on a roll of seven wins. More than 12,000 saw Storm win 3-1, a victory as breathless as it was priceless. There are few men in this high-octane sport more inscrutable than Kleinendorst, but even his cool veneer collapsed with the last-minute goal, that confirmed the win. "I don't show my feelings much but that was the pivotal night," he said. It was the first of six successive wins for Storm, the first in five defeats out of six for Cardiff.

Kleinendorst's assignment now is to exploit that support base and create a new generation of British players. Manchester have only one home-grown player on their staff, the supremely-gifted Jonathan Weaver, and Kleinendorst is not confident of finding more like him.

"Rinks would rather take money for public skating than encourage locals to learn hockey," he said. "We are doing all we can, with a junior section and a week-long hockey school in April, but it is the biggest challenge the game faces."

Scoring system beats Rolph

SUSAN ROLPH beat Katrin Meissner in both the 50 and 100 metres freestyle in their final outing of the winter World Cup season in Germany at the weekend, but lost the overall sprint freestyle title by an excruciating margin of two points yesterday.

In the end, the severity of Rolph's defeats compared with those suffered by Meissner during a maximum of six point-scoring rounds of the 12-event series mattered more than the fact that the British champion had won seven races to five victories for the German.

The pair met in three rounds, Rolph winning the 100 metres each time, Meissner winning the 50 metres twice but losing to Rolph on Saturday for the first time, 25.06sec

From Craig Lord in Gelsenkirchen

to 25.23sec. That she beat Meissner, 26, over 50 metres gave Rolph, 20, a great sense of satisfaction and confirmed that her winter training programme is on course to produce the success she craves at the world short-course championships in Hong Kong next month.

Yesterday's win over 100 metres, in 54.33sec, just 0.06sec up on Meissner, further confirmed Rolph's superiority as a racer. However, two victories do not a World Cup title make, accounting for 20 points, against the 14 for two

second places that took the German to 99 points, two clear of the Briton's tally.

The rivals had started the weekend eight points apart, a gap that owed much to the third and fourth place finishes that Rolph suffered behind Chinese swimmers while nursing a heavy cold in Beijing in January.

Meissner's worst finish was second place. In hindsight, Rolph would have been wiser to have opted to compete at the Canadian round of the cup instead of Beijing, but then World Cup rules do not allow entries to be switched.

As such, Rolph collected the £3,300 runner-up prize, against Meissner's £5,500, but considered herself the better swimmer beyond the eccentricities of the scoring system.

Slough fail to disrupt holder's march to title

RUSSELLSHEIMER ruined Slough's hopes of breaking their stranglehold on the event when they cruised to their sixth successive title with a comfortable 7-1 win in the final of the European indoor championship in Glasgow yesterday (Cathy Harris writes).

Although the result was emphatic, Slough turned in a gritty performance and were rarely outplayed. The difference was in the superior skill and quality of the finishing, with Russellshiemer racing to a 4-0 lead before Sarah Kelleher made it 4-1 at half-time.

Slough's tentative display in the semi-final against Siauliai, the Lithuanian champions — where they were forced to recover from a 2-0 deficit before winning 4-2 —

did not bode well. With a squad of only nine fit players, the rigours of the tournament were bound to take their toll on the likes of Mandy Nicholson, Sue Chandler, Kelleher and Jane Smith, the competition's leading goalscorer.

Britta Becker, the Russellshiemer captain, scored twice along with Tanja Dickenscheld.

In the women's National League premier division, Doncaster, who sit at the bottom of the table, caused the first big upset of the season when they defeated the depleted leaders, Ipswich. First-half goals by Sally Wright and Carol Savage and a penalty-corner goal six minutes from time, from Claire Ferguson, steered Doncaster to victory.

Reading use home advantage

HOCKEY

By Sydney Friskin

READING responded to their home supporters yesterday by shooting their way to a 5-2 victory over Canterbury and a place in the semi-finals of the EHA Cup.

Humphries had cut Reading's lead to 3-1 early in the second half, but two quick goals by Briscoe and Pearn restored their superiority. The absence of Hacker, through injury, made a big difference to Canterbury who lacked inspiration in their midfield.

Before they could settle down they were two goals down, Barnes, from a short corner, and Loose scoring for Reading. Then, two minutes before the interval, their plight worsened when Slay converted a penalty stroke. A goal from a short corner by Mathews just before the end

was small consolation for Canterbury. Cannock, the holders, secured their place in the last four with a 4-3 home win over Lewes, of the first division. Edwards scored two goals from short corners for Cannock and Waters hit the target twice for Lewes from open play.

A goal by Thompson in the last minute from a short corner enabled Old Loughtonians to defeat Teddington 3-2. He had scored earlier to add to the first goal by Scott Smith. Wallis scored both goals for Teddington.

The final place in the semi-finals was taken by Southgate with an 8-3 victory over Hounslow, who trailed 7-1 at half-time. Grice was the only player to score twice for Southgate, but he could have been joined by Kwan Brown, of Trinidad, who missed a penalty stroke after scoring in the eighth minute.

It was a disappointing weekend for Canterbury who dropped from second to third position in the National League premier division after a 3-3 draw at home against Hounslow on Saturday.

Reading were out-gunned by Cannock, who, despite the absence of Crutchley, their injured sharp-shooter, went away with a 2-0 victory with goals by Pidcock and Hughes-Rowlands.

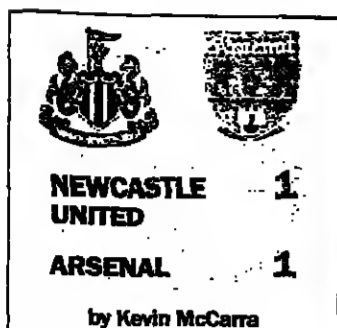
LEGAL PERFORMANCE ENHANCEMENT

MARK PHILIPPOUSSIS

DUNLOP
ACCEPT NO LIMITS

FA Carling Premiership: Germany midfielder player dents title ambitions

Hamann breaks Arsenal's cover



by Kevin McCarra

BAD timing, like a change in the weather, can turn an appealing jaunt into a treacherous journey. In previous days, progress might have been comfortable, but Arsenal, despite taking the lead, were unable to make their way through to victory yesterday against a Newcastle United side that is growing in resourcefulness.

Arsenal, seven points behind Manchester United in the FA Carling Premiership, may even come to see this as a day when the itinerary of their intended trek towards the title was disrupted and will think wistfully of occasions earlier in the season when such as West Ham United and Leeds United sauntered to St James' Park and amused themselves by administering a pasting.

Since then, the ground has ceased to be an amusement parlour for the day-trippers. Rudi Gullit has pieced together a team that functions more fluently. It would be idle to pretend that he is in anything more than the early stages of overhaul and there were spells yesterday when Newcastle looked uneasy. Yet they never capitulated and newcomers such as Didier Domi have brought a solidity that foiled Arsenal's efforts to take decisive control.

Even more importantly, Newcastle, when the prospects appear dreary, have the potential for effectiveness, as they had shown when conjuring Roy Keane to knock Blackburn's goal in the FA Cup last week. They tapped this resource against Arsenal when Temuri Ketsbaia, a substitute, fed Dietmar Hamann in the 77th minute. The German midfielder player strode on to weave his way into the cluster at the centre of the Arsenal defence. This is a course that is usually about as safe as sprinting into the midst of a motorway.



Anelka, who had been put clear by Bergkamp, strides past Given, the Newcastle goalkeeper, to put Arsenal ahead at St James' Park. Photograph: Ross Kimbaird/Allsport

Hamann, however, was not mown down and kept his balance to stab a controlled shot into the corner of the net. It was a breakthrough that also smashed the highly familiar shape that the game had been assuming. Were it not for that inspired intervention, this would have been the most old-fashioned of Arsenal successes. In the gap between Newcastle's bright opening and the equaliser, Arsène Wenger's side had plied their trade with deadening efficiency.

Arsenal, above all, are the team to fasten mercilessly on to a small advantage, for the champions are famous for the relish they take in a close contest. For them, the satisfac-

tion inherent in a narrow win would have been as great as that of any rout. No matter what other renovations have been undertaken by Wenger at Highbury, that trait has been preserved with a conservationist's zeal.

Alan Shearer cheerfully exchanged thumbs with his England team-mates, but the resilience of Tony Adams and Martin Keown is not to be broken down by meaty blows. In the end, Guille was to prove their undoing and, by that late stage, artifice was not expected to make an appearance.

It was not always the players' fault that the action, which saw Remi Garde taken off on a stretcher

off in the fourth minute following a challenge by Solano was a matter of bump and bruise. A soft, abraded surface made the ball a bit of a stick-in-the-mud and, as the passes refused to roll, a static game joined the players together through tugs and busses.

The resilient aspect of Arsenal was highlighted by Patrick Vieira, the sentinel in midfield, whose guard duty still allowed him time off for bouts of defiance. In the twentieth minute, he turned near his own corner flag to detach himself from Brady and embark on a loping surge before supplying Nicolas Anelka, who sent Overmars through with a flick.

Newcastle could not stop Arsenal then, but Mike Reed, the referee, did, deciding that Anelka had been fouled by Nikolaos Dabizas and declining to play the blatant advantage. Even so, Gullit's side were not to be saved from themselves in the 36th minute. Both of Newcastle's centre backs were at fault, with Steve Howey fluffing a clearance to Bergkamp and Dabizas failing to intercept the pass from the Dutchman that sent Anelka clear to drift round Shay Given to finish.

The episode left Newcastle with an acute taste, but there had been sourness in their mouths for a while. In the 29th minute, Solano had taken possession from Speed to

stride to the byline and deliver the ideal, low cross to the back post. Shearer waited there and looked almost nonchalant as he thrust out his right foot to nudge the ball home. Somehow, he made no contact at all.

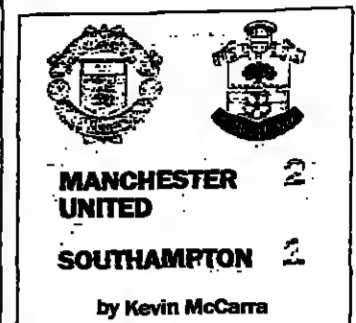
Newcastle continue to have several faults, but, under Gullit, enough talent has been amassed to ensure that, on days like this, they can atone for them.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-4-2): S. Given — L. Cherwell, S. Howey, M. Dabizas, G. Doherty — M. Solano (sub: T. Ketsbaia, 60min), O. Hamann, G. Speed, G. Brady (sub: R. Lee, 69) — L. Saha, A. Shearer.

ARSENAL (4-4-2): D. Seaman — L. Dixon, M. Keown, A. Adams, M. Wardlaw — R. Pothorpe, P. Wincott, R. Garcia (sub: S. Hughes, 45), M. Overmars (sub: M. Upton, 88) — N. Anelka, O. Bergkamp.

Referee: M. Potts.

Beckham rises above United's indifference



by Kevin McCarra

PRE-MATCH entertainment is good for business only because it sends many supporters fleeing for the snack bar. The crowd actually stayed and grumbled in its seats at Old Trafford, but could not have mistaken the fact that this fixture was a desultory preliminary to the real event. Ryan Giggs, Dwight Yorke and the rest were a warm-up act for themselves. They did no more than kindle interest in a performance of, one hopes, far greater dimensions than they will give against Internazionale in the home leg of the European Cup quarter-final on Wednesday.

There is more often a glint than a twinkle in the eye of Alex Ferguson, the manager, and he did not consider the long listlessness pardonable. One figure met his standard. While others took the field yet excused themselves duty, David Beckham's desire to make passes was never sated. Every move that brought or promised a goal had a contribution from Beckham embedded within it.

There was nothing statuesque in his display, no inclination to content himself with striking long balls from deep positions. He often ran hard at Southampton and, in an undistinguished match, the loss of him would have been intolerable. Even the referee was, rightly, solicitous of his welfare. When Beckham was brought down by Patrick Coller, Peter Jones was as eager to calm the midfield player as he was to book the Frenchman.

After his dismissal against Argentina at the 1998 World Cup, there has been a contrived yet persistent hostility towards Beckham from the fans of other clubs. It may be that, as a riposte, he has learnt to apply his skills with greater concentration than ever. Even Ferguson, who was otherwise in no mood for plaudits, said: "He has been magnificent for us this season."

In the game with Inter, Beckham will face Diego Simeone, the man against whom he retaliated to earn that red card at the World Cup. On Saturday, however, United eventually demonstrated that the excitement of their European Cup campaign will spring from more than the melodrama of one man's life. Having tried to rest some important members of the team, Ferguson found that the competence of the visiting team compelled him to reinstate them as substitutes.

SOUTHAMPTON, surprisingly confident at a ground where they have now lost ten matches in a row, kept possession well in the first half, even if they fashioned virtually no chances. Beckham set up Yorke and Giggs for headers that were blocked on the goal-line, but United's discontent grew and Roy Keane was brought on to generate the pace that had been lacking in the build-up.

The erosion of Southampton was under way and they also lost Ken Monkou with a hamstring injury. In the 79th minute, Beckham's corner was nodded back by Herning Berg, laid-off by Yorke and finished with the low shot from Keane that deflected from the leg of Coller. Four minutes later, Beckham barely broke stride as he named Denis Irwin's awkward, dropping clearance before striding on to flight the beautiful pass that allowed Yorke to sidestep Paul Jones, the goalkeeper, and increase the lead.

All the same, United should experience a little unease. Once more, they were as unhappy at set-pieces as they have been in the European matches. James Beattie met a corner from Matt Le Tissier, a substitute, and headed against the bar when the game was goalless. In injury time, Le Tissier, unhampered, glanced home Jason Dodd's free kick. A minute earlier, Peter Schmeichel had dived for a Le Tissier shot and spooned the ball to Beattie, who hit the post. There is still remedial work of one sort or another to be done at Old Trafford.

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-2): P. Schmeichel — G. Neville, H. Berg, R. Johnson, P. Neville (sub: D. Irwin, 60min), O. Beardsley, P. Scholes (sub: R. Keane, 48), N. Butt, R. Goss — O. Yorke, G. G. Scholes (sub: A. Cole, 67).

SOUTHAMPTON (4-4-2): P. Jones — J. Dodd, K. Monkou (sub: F. Bennett, 59), C. Lindemans, P. Coller — O. Hughes, M. Oakes, C. Marsden, W. Bridge — J. Beattie, E. O'Connor (sub: M. Le Tissier, 67).

Referee: P. Jones.

Gregory reconciled to failure



by Richard Hobson

so low, rhythm so disjointed and injuries biting so deeply that a place in the UEFA Cup, the worst-case scenario until recently, must now be considered uncertain.

While Coventry City played with the passion and purpose usually reserved for the last game of the campaign, when their status hinges on the result, they were ushered to a first league win at Villa Park as smoothly as guests at a wedding. Flimsy both in defence and midfield, Villa stood uneasily in a linear 4-4-2 formation that saw Hendrie and Merson confined to the flanks and the full backs offering little support.

"I saw things which confirmed my worst fears about certain players," Gregory said. "There are a lot of injuries and not much confi-

dence, but when you boil it all down those are excuses not reasons. I have not dealt with matters too well so I'm facing a huge test myself. But I am a good manager, and I intend to do something."

Although he suggested that movement in the transfer market represented the easy option, it is one that he is likely to take. "We should have gone and spent another £10 million on players to strengthen the squad. Failure to land the Juninho deal was a huge disappointment," he added.

A suggestion that Atlético Madrid are considering Gregory as a replacement for Arrigo Sacchi, sacked as the coach last week, has arrived at a convenient time for the manager as he seeks support from the boardroom before the transfer deadline next month.

Alan Stubbs, the Celtic defender, remains a target, but whether Stubbs can provide the strength of the injured Udo Ehiogu is a moot point. It is difficult to imagine the robust Ehiogu being muscled out of the challenges that led to the

first two Coventry goals. After 24 minutes Aloisi turned ahead of Scimeca before angling his low shot across Oakes. Then, five minutes into the second half, Scimeca again allowed himself to be beaten by Boateng, who scored at the near post.

By this time Boateng had secured a firm grip in midfield to complement the craft of McAllister and endeavour of Teller. Coventry could consider themselves unfortunate that Uriah Rennie, the referee, deemed a challenge by Shaw on Joachim worthy of a penalty, and if Dublin had scored from close range four minutes after converting from the spot then Gordon Strachan, the manager, might have spoken more caustically about the decision afterwards.

Instead, Aloisi reacted smartly when Southgate lost his balance to volley in a free kick by Froggatt in the 72nd minute and Boateng completed the victory by lobbing Oakes as the goalkeeper tried to cut out a through pass by McAllister. A serious ankle injury to Watson and a muted display by Dublin compounded the difficulties facing Gregory.

Strachan has a happier problem in how to accommodate the predatory Aloisi when Whelan recovers fitness. "Huckerby and Whelan want to play good football and like scoring goals, but Aloisi is just desperate to score goals," Strachan said. Other defences will offer the Australia striker less assistance.

ASTON VILLA (4-4-2): M. Oakes — S. Watson (sub: G. Shaw, 59min), S. Scimeca, G. Scudamore, A. Wright — P. Merson, S. Grayson, I. Taylor (sub: M. Draper, 28), sub: S. Collymore, 60, L. Hendrie — O. Dublin, J. Louch.

COVENTRY CITY (4-4-2): M. Hedman — R. Nelson, R. Shaw, P. Williams, O. Burrows — G. Boateng, P. Teller, O. McAllister, S. Froggatt — O. Huckerby (sub: G. McSheehy, 80), J. Aloisi.

Referee: U. Rennie.

Houllier building on weak foundations

NEXT to Gérard Houllier, Gianluca Vialli, with his penchant for school-uniform colours and jumpers, looks every inch the keen student. But Houllier, while appearing professional, needs to peek over Vialli's shoulder to discover the formula they are working to at Stamford Bridge.

Chelsea's victory came too easily. Liverpool only applying pressure in the final 20 minutes, and had the visitors secured a draw, no one would have been fooled.

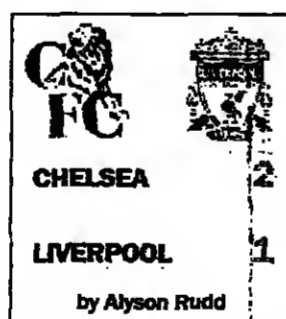
Chelsea should have doubled their goal tally while so evidently on top, but that has been their lugubrious all season and still they keep on winning. Liverpool cannot keep on doing anything except bow to the gods of inconsistency. It is not difficult to picture Houllier buried in the bootroom, chalk in one hand, board duster in the other, trying to unearth the formation that will solve the puzzle and unleash on to the FA Carling Premier-

ship a Liverpool side that lives up to its billing.

That is perhaps at the root of the problem. All this fiddling, tweaking and cajoling has to stop. Liverpool should have been rebuilt years ago, possibly twice over since they last won the league title in 1990. Arguably Bill Shankly's greatest talent was in seeing decline in the midst of victory, of planning beyond the next cup final, the next trophy.

Now the opposite is true. Houllier is clinging on and building around foundations that are just are not strong enough. Both Liverpool and England are suffering because the partnership of Ince and Redknapp in midfield is considered a perfect combination of guile and guts. Well, it ought to be, and on occasion it has been, but their fine performances do not outweigh their disappointing ones.

Against Chelsea, Liverpool gave away possession in midfield and put the defence



by Alyson Rudd

under constant pressure. Babb and Matteo coped reasonably well and while Kvarme and Bjornnebe blundered, struggling to adapt to the 4-4-2 formation forced on them when Heggan had to be replaced in the ninth minute, the entire back line could argue they had been let down.

Houllier has been protective of the team when on their travels, they have lost ground — this was their eighth away defeat of the season — but on Saturday he was less inclined

to find excuses. Even so, he restricted his criticism to the niceties rather than the fundamentals. "We build up too slow. What gives fluidity to a game is movement," he said. Some disillusioned supporters might want to see movement of a different sort. With only a decent placing in the Premiership to strive for, Liverpool are in danger of becoming insular and obsessed.

Chelsea's concentration ebbed a touch too early, but you could almost forgive them for believing they had done enough in the first half to win the game. They rotate much more than just their strike-force at Stamford Bridge. They take it to be heroes too. Right now Goldback is the toast of Fulham Road. He and Petrescu enjoyed themselves, ping-pong the ball from wing to wing, leaving the visitors dizzy and disorientated, and from a deep cross by the Ru-

manian, Goldback snatched Chelsea's second goal. "I was unmarked," he admitted. That happens sometimes but why had no one on the Liverpool bench noticed that Goldback had been continuously unmarked and ordered Kvarme to stalk him?

Liverpool could have played the misfortune card early on. Babb giving away an early penalty, converted by Leboeuf, after it appeared he was not intentionally handling the ball but claiming a foul against him by Flo.

Liverpool created chances other than the one that led to Owen's goal in the 77th minute, but it is not just Chelsea who have brushed them aside this season. CHELSEA (4-4-2): E. De Gooij — A. Fenwick, M. Dennis, F. Leboeuf (sub: R. Larnbourne, 59min), L. Le Sueur (sub: F. Newton, 58) — O. Petrescu, R. D. Martinez, J. Morris, G. Goldback (sub: J. Taylor, 60), G. Zola.

LIVERPOOL (3-5-2): O. Jones — A. T. Kvarme, O. Matteo, P. Babb — V. Heggan (sub: J. M. Farn, 48), P. Benger (sub: K. Riebel, 80), S. I. Bjornnebe — M. Owen, R. Foster.

Referee: P. Duran.



Richard Hobson Speculation over the next manager of Leeds United overshadowed an otherwise forgettable encounter between the clubs last October. When Tony Cottee earned Leicester City a 1-0 win at Elland Road, the odds on Martin O'Neill replacing George Graham shortened.

Some three weeks passed before O'Neill finally rejected the overtures from Elland Road and David O'Leary accepted the post. Leicester supporters danced in the streets, while at Leeds they reserved judgement. Half a season later, the verdict on O'Leary could hardly be more favourable.

Victory against a Leicester side without a win in six league games tonight will lift Leeds into fourth place in the FA Carling Premiership and raise hopes for a UEFA Cup place next season. Radebe, who was due to arrive home from South



Tonight, 8.0

Africa at 6am this morning, will play his second game in three days, having appeared for his country against Gabon on Saturday, but Woodgate is suspended. O'Neill recalls Cottee, while Heskey is expected to have recovered from a back problem.

LEICESTER CITY (possible 3-5-2): K. Koller — P. Karmach, M. Elliott, R. Uthman, F. Sinclair, Z. Zogorovic, L. Lennon, M. Keane, S. Guppy — A. Cottee, E. Heskey.

LEEDS UNITED (possible 4-4-2): N. Martin — G. Halls, O. Wharmby, L. Radebe, I. Harte — A. J. Horsfield, B. Bowyer, O. Heskey, W. Korstan — J. F. Hasselbaink, H. Kewell.

Referee: G. Barker.

TELEVISION: Live on Sky Sports 1, from 7pm.

PREDICTION: Home win.



Sutton: Battered

Chelsea chase Sutton

HAVING made what appeared to be a tongue-in-cheek approach to Chris Sutton, the Blackburn Rovers forward, Chelsea's interest may be more serious (Alyson Rudd writes).

After Blackburn's 1-1 draw at Stamford Bridge two weeks ago, Suzanne Dwyer, the partner of Ken Bates, the Chelsea chairman, asked Sutton: "How do you fancy playing for us?"

What Sutton assumed was a joke has now turned into

genuine interest. Chelsea's FA Carling Premiership, FA Cup and Cup Winners' Cup campaigns are all in robust health, despite their apparent struggle to score goals.

Sutton, who would cost around £10 million, could make the difference while Tore Andre Flo regains full fitness and Mikael Forssell, the young Finland forward, learns his trade in the Premiership. "It's flattering when a team like Chelsea want you," Sutton said.

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7/4 LEICESTER 9/4 DRAW LEEDS UTD 5/4

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CORRECT SCORE	HALF-TIME / FULL-TIME	FIRST GOALSCORER
LEICESTER 1-0 LEEDS	LEICESTER 1-0 LEEDS	3/1 JASSELBAINK (LU)
LEICESTER 2-0 LEEDS	LEICESTER 2-0 LEEDS	6/1 SMITH (LU)
LEICESTER 3-0 LEEDS	LEICESTER 3-0 LEEDS	12/1 HESKEY (LU)
LEICESTER 4-0 LEEDS	LEICESTER 4-0 LEEDS	25/1 COTTEE (LU)
LEICESTER 5-0 LEEDS	LEICESTER 5-0 LEEDS	10/1 KEWELL (LU)
LEICESTER 6-0 LEEDS	LEICESTER 6-0 LEEDS	14/1 ELLIOTT (LU)
LEICESTER 7-0 LEEDS	LEICESTER 7-0 LEEDS	16/1 HARTLE (LU)
LEICESTER 8-0 LEEDS	LEICESTER 8-0 LEEDS	20/1 GUPPY (LU)
LEICESTER 9-0 LEEDS	LEICESTER 9-0 LEEDS	25/1 LENNON (LU)
LEICESTER 10-0 LEEDS	LEICESTER 10-0 LEEDS	5/1 NO GOALSCORER

Other players on request. Own goals do not count.

PRICES CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. FOR LATEST PRICES SEE CH4 TEXT PAGE 12/19.

Nationwide League: Bradford rise while Goldberg's popularity sinks in victory

Jewell revels in thrill of the chase

Bradford City.....1
West Bromwich Albion.....0

By PAT GIBSON

CRAZY. Paul Jewell, the Bradford City manager, called it. Strange. Denis Smith, his West Bromwich Albion counterpart, concurred. They were talking about the Nationwide League first division in which no fewer than eleven clubs are still clinging to the hope that they can join Sunderland, the runaway leaders, in the FA Carling Premiership next season.

Jewell's remark was prompted by the news of Bolton Wanderers' 3-1 home defeat by the bottom club, Crewe Alexandra, which had allowed Bradford to sneak back into the

Results and tables.....32
Lynne Truss.....35

second automatic promotion position, behind Sunderland. "That sort of thing can happen in this division," he said.

Smith's comment was in support of his contention that West Bromwich can still win a place in the play-offs, despite the fact that they have now taken only one point from their past four games and dropped to ninth.

"Everybody is hearing one another," he said. "We've had a bad month and it's not done us the world of good. It has made life extremely difficult, but it isn't over yet. I've just told my players that it's only March. The season finishes in May."

Bradford did not need reminding of that but there is a growing belief at Valley Parade that they are on their way back to the top division of English football for the first time since the 1921-22 season.

They have been beaten only once in their past 13 league games and Jewell reflected his pleasure in the way they are churning out results in his chipper, Scouse way. "I'm

glad we're out of our slump," he said. "Two draws and a victory. Terrible."

Bradford still have a long way to go if they are to compete on a regular basis with the club that was relegated with them 77 years ago — it just happened to be Manchester United — but, on Saturday, they showed a similar facility for winning games without playing as fluently as they can.

There were valid reasons for that. They were without the influential Beagrie on the left because of injury and when their other winger, Lawrence, went off in the 17th minute with a bad back, they had to split their prolific striking partnership of Mills and Blake to retain their shape.

There was an unexpected bonus, however. Jewell pushed Jacobs, normally a left back, into a left-sided midfield position in place of Beagrie and was able to claim afterwards, albeit with tongue firmly in cheek, "an inspired change of tactics by the manager. I always knew he could play left wing."

Apart from that, Jacobs scored the goal, after only two minutes, to upset West Bromwich's pre-match plan to pack their midfield in order to make themselves more solid in defence. Sneekes conceded a foul on the right and, when Whalley's free kick was headed out, Jacobs' shot was deflected past a wrong-footed Whitehead.

Bradford seemed to have scored a second goal in the 25th minute when Mills turned in Rankin's low cross, but it was belatedly ruled out for offside and, for all the excellence of McCall and Whalley in midfield, their nerves were beginning to fray when Rankin squandered two second-half chances.

BRADFORD CITY (4-2-2): G Walsh — A O'Brien, D O'Connor, A Westwood (sub J Dwyer, 64 mins), L Todd — J Lawrence (sub J Rankin, 17 mins), S McCall, G Whalley, W Jacobs — R Blake, L Mills. **WEST BROMWICH ALBION (4-5-1):** P Whitehead — P Holmes, S Maphu, O Burgess, J Van Beek — M Ansel, M Bonalick (sub J Dwyer, 67), J O'Brien (sub J O'Brien, 65), R Sneekes, A Kibanda — L Hughes. Referee: R Pearson.



Mullins, left, turns away in celebration with Morrison, centre, after giving Crystal Palace the lead at Selhurst Park

Crystal Palace.....1
Barnsley.....0

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

MANY Crystal Palace supporters travelled to Selhurst Park yesterday with one aim in mind: to heckle Mark Goldberg, the chairman, and voice their dismay at his troubled eight-month stewardship of the Nationwide League first division club. They left a few disgruntled chants and taken protests later, in buoyant mood, having witnessed Palace's first victory since Boxing Day.

The expected mass calling for Goldberg's head did not materialise. The fans' anger may yet resurface, not to mention that of the players. They did not receive their monthly wages on Friday and will wait with trepidation until Wednesday, when Goldberg has promised to pay up from his personal funds. That the value of his shares in his computer company recently slumped from its £10 million "comfort zone" to little more than £2 million does not augur well.

Goldberg remained upbeat amid the discontent. "Maybe my biggest mistake was my

Mullins gives Palace rebels cause to smile

ambition," he said. "I thought too big too quickly. I can understand why the fans are angry but it doesn't help to fight with me. It's the time to unite, not fight." Steve Coppell, once again called into the breach after the departure of Terry Venables, the Palace coach, six weeks ago, has seen it all before.

"I think it's part of the Palace fans' mentality," he said. "They love to suffer the torture. I'm just glad we didn't play brilliantly and win 5-0 because some of my players might have then been sold."

"We had all kinds of excuses — the strong wind, the state of the pitch, the chairman's problems and not being paid. I'm just happy we got a scrappy win. The players are philosophical about it all and, in the circumstances,

they did a thoroughly professional job."

Palace won in ugly fashion but perhaps were due a slice of good fortune. Barnsley, with one eye on their FA Cup quarter-final against Tottenham Hotspur on Saturday, had hardly contributed to an awful spectacle when they experienced a bizarre series of injuries shortly before half-time.

Moses was the first to go after colliding with Jones, his teammate, and sustaining a gashed head that required eight stitches. Appleby, his replacement, went seven minutes later with a suspected cracked pelvis — his fall possibly caused by the uneven surface — and Sheridan failed to reappear after the interval because of a dislocated jaw. Of the three, only Moses might recover to play Tottenham.

As crisp packets and assorted crisps flew around in the wind, neither Palace nor Barnsley were able to control the conditions with any degree of success. That 17,000 fans had turned up to cheer, by far, said much for their faith in the club's chances of survival.

Coppell was spot on: it was the 25th minute, was apparently scrappy, with Mullins scrapping into the Barnsley area and attempting to push his shot past Tony Bullock, the murrish goalkeeper. The ball bobbed at the vital moment over Bullock's prostrate body and trickled into the net for Mullins's third goal of the season.

"I must be the biggest mug in the world," Goldberg said, "but we've got to stick together and see this through." The three points, however ill-deserved, should give him some breathing space.

CRYSTAL PALACE (3-5-2): K Miller — D Pate, C Moore, A Langan — J Smith, S Thompson (sub S Thompson, 67), H Mullins, C Foster, Sun Jui — C Morrison, Fan Zhuyi (sub L Morrison, 73). **BARNSEY (4-4-2):** A Bullock — N Eaden, A De Zoort, S Jones, C Baskmore — A Moses (sub M Appleby, 37), sub M Bullock, 44, K Richardson, G Hughes, O Sheridan (sub O Goodwin, 48) — B Dyer, M Shotton. Referee: M Holley.

Francis goes Continental via North Sea

Grimsby Town.....0
Birmingham City.....3

By MARTIN WOODS

TREVOR FRANCIS introduced a little bit of Serie A artistry to the North Sea allusion that is Blundell Park when his Birmingham City side gave a masterclass in the art of defending to erode further the tantalising prospect of Gianluca Viali and company.

Every year, the Premiership entertains a club from the wrong side of the tracks before showing it the door. Alan Buckley's Grimsby Town would trump any of the disadvantages held by previous incumbents of the top division's trapdoor. Even among the candidates for a play-off place, Grimsby revel in the role of rank outsiders. However, if points were awarded for a manager's disarming honesty, automatic promotion would beckon. "I thought we were second best," Buckley said. "They deserved to beat us."

Beaten previously only twice at Blundell Park this season by sides, as Francis pointed out, just departed the Premiership, Grimsby are a formidable proposition at home. So Saturday's 3-0 verdict intimates the growing validity of Birmingham's claim on an automatic promotion spot. "They are the best I've seen for a while," Buckley said.

Birmingham's masterful defence, marshalled by Gary Rowett, laid the foundation for victory in the first half when they withstood everything Grimsby threw at them before taking the lead nine minutes before the break.

The goal was a reminder of how the Zimbabwe international Peter Ndlovu once illuminated the top flight. Taking possession just outside the right of the Grimsby box, the former Coventry City striker twisted and turned Lever and Smith before unleashing a shot through the crowded area into the right-hand corner of the net.

For all Grimsby's monopoly on possession, their neat, intricate passing game too often foundered on the rock of Rowett and Johnson.

If Grimsby's primary fault was over-elaboration, Birmingham derived their ascendancy from concentrated simplicity. O'Connor, the captain and Hyde were instrumental in maintaining their side's advantage as Grimsby redoubled their efforts after the break. However, their prospects were undermined as Lever did not reappear and Buckley was forced to deploy Groves, his captain, as a makeshift centre half.

When Hughes dribbled clean through the right side of the home defence before shooting straight at the goalkeeper, Davison, a quarter of an hour into the half, it confirmed City's growing sense of superiority. They had drawn Grims-

BOB TAYLOR equalled the all-time goalscoring record for the third division of English football with all five goals as Gillingham demolished Burnley 5-0 at Turf Moor. Taylor scored four times in the first half before adding his fifth three minutes after the break.

by's sting and 1-0 was not going to satisfy them.

Francis proved his theory that a spurred striker is a dangerous one five minutes before the end when the substitute, Dele Adebola, turned Smith outside the box before stroking the ball wide of the outstretched Davison. Rowett then rose above the home defence to head home, like a bullet, Hughes's corner. "We just don't throw a back four together," Francis said. "We do a lot of hard work on the training ground."

GRIMSBY TOWN (4-4-2): A Davison — J McDermott, R Smith, M Lever (sub M Bullock, 67), G Johnson — C Morrison, S Thompson (sub S Thompson, 67), H Mullins, C Foster, Sun Jui — C Morrison, Fan Zhuyi (sub L Morrison, 73). **BIRMINGHAM CITY (4-4-2):** K Pate — J Smith, S Thompson (sub S Thompson, 67), H Mullins, C Foster, Sun Jui — C Morrison, Fan Zhuyi (sub L Morrison, 73). **BURNLEY (4-4-2):** A Bullock — N Eaden, A De Zoort, S Jones, C Baskmore — A Moses (sub M Appleby, 37), sub M Bullock, 44, K Richardson, G Hughes, O Sheridan (sub O Goodwin, 48) — B Dyer, M Shotton. Referee: M Holley.

Houston leaves Wright on top

Bristol City.....0
Ipswich Town.....1

By DAVID POWELL

JUST as surely as Stewart Houston is leaving Ipswich Town, so luck is deserting Bristol City. Bristol had not so much the lion's share of the chances as enough to feed an entire jungle, but Richard Wright, Ipswich's England Under-21 goalkeeper, proved unbeatable.

Ipswich moved up one place to third in the Nationwide League first division with their twentieth clean sheet. "How long have we been saying that Richard is the finest young keeper in the country and it was there to be seen again today?" George Burley, the Ipswich manager, observed.

Wright's best moment was a double block from Locke's drive and Alkin's follow-up, but he would not be persuaded

into admiring his own work. "In training every day we work on things like that," Wright, 21, said. He is sorry to lose Houston, whose last game as coach this was before joining Tottenham Hotspur. "He has been a great influence on me," Wright said.

Houston is teaming up with George Graham, with whom he had a successful partnership at Arsenal. After the game, when Houston brought the players back out to warm down, they good-naturedly wrestled him to the ground. In return, he left them with a flea in their ear. "Ipswich have to be better on Tuesday against Watford," Houston said. "We cannot go on playing the way we did today."

John Gorman, assistant to the former England coach, Clavin Hoddle, raised speculation that he was to be Houston's successor by his presence in the stands. Asked the question, Burley did not deny it. A 55th-minute goal by Richard Naylor

gave Ipswich their thirteenth point from five matches and added to the bad luck being dealt out to Bristol City.

In a bleak February, they have lost to a disputed 89th-minute goal against Sunderland, enjoyed the better of the chances against Queens Park Rangers and Ipswich, without winning, had three points snatched away from them in the nineteenth minute against West Bromwich Albion, and lost two key players, Tistimeneanu and Bell, to injury for the rest of the season.

On Saturday, after the final whistle, a radio commentator suggested that City were not dead and buried yet. After two wins in 18 matches, they are almost being buried alive.

BRISTOL CITY (4-4-2): S Phillips — L Carey, M Shaw, V Seabrook, J Bennett — S Anderson, A Locke, R Edwards (sub M Hill, 70), A Brown — A Murray, S Torpey (sub J Taylor, 62), M Wright, M Hughes, A Mowbray, M Vance — F White (sub M Schofield, 48), K Dyer, J Morris, M Holland, J Clapham — R Naylor, M Harwood (sub R Pate, 62). Referee: S Knight.

Wigan maintain promotion drive

Macclesfield Town.....0
Wigan Athletic.....1

By A CORRESPONDENT

GIANT strides have been taken by Macclesfield Town over these past two seasons but a small step backwards seems inevitable now after this latest home defeat that leaves them rooted at the foot of the Nationwide League second division.

Even the Macclesfield faithful, who have followed the club from the Conference to their present status, appeared to accept that the chill wind blowing across the tiny South Cheshire ground was an ill omen. Lack of money and a rise to prominence that has come too quickly was the general opinion.

Despite their position and the state of the Moss Rose pitch, Sammy McIlroy, the Macclesfield manager, remained pragmatic. "The pitch is a disgrace but it's the same for both sides," he said. His task is now to lift his team for the home derby match with Stoke City, another team in poor form, tomorrow.

Macclesfield's performance in the first half was desperate, but the goal by Wigan Athletic that decided the contest was derived from cruel luck. David Lee's sixth-minute floating cross from the right

wing gained altitude and speed on the stiff north-easterly and eluded Ryan Price's frantic efforts to backpedal in time to make the save.

Although the home side rallied after half-time, by then Wigan's defensive lines, expertly shored up by Colin Greenall, their centre back, were well established.

Wigan have now lost just two of their past 21 matches. Financed by David Whelan, the chairman of JJB Sports, they will open next season in a new £30 million stadium and it may yet be a debut in the first division.

If that target is to be attained, Simon Haworth, Wigan's record signing, will surely need to be fully fit to provide impetus to a promotion drive.

He joined colleagues who had not played on Saturday for a gentle jog around the pitch after the match. Since Haworth, formerly of Coventry City, signed for £600,000 last October, he has been troubled by hamstring problems. Ray Mathias, the Wigan manager, can afford not to rush his return.

MACCLESFIELD TOWN (4-4-2): R Price — S Hillman, S Payne, E Soke, R Ingram — S Sedgwick, N Soave (sub G Tomlinson, 69), S Davies (sub S Wood, 34) — J Askey, P Hird. **WIGAN ATHLETIC (5-3-2):** R Carroll — C Greenhalgh, M McGibbon, C O'Connor, S Barker, K Sharp — O Lee, F Rogers, M O'Neil — S Barker, A Laddell. Referee: J Kirby.

Sombre Southend learn facts of life

Cambridge United.....3
Southend United.....0

By ANDY STEPHENS

SOUTHEND United provided proof at the Abbey Stadium on Saturday that statistics are like a bikini. What they reveal is suggestive, but what they conceal is vital. Alvin Martin's side won more corners than Cambridge United, had as many shots on target as them, twice hit the woodwork and created the easiest goalscoring opportunity of the afternoon — yet were still soundly beaten.

Cambridge, inspired by those invisible virtues of spirit and self-belief, were good value for their success. They displayed a much more acute killer instinct and, aided by two goals from John Taylor, won comfortably to stay on course for promotion from the Nationwide League third division.

Southend should have taken the lead in the 42nd minute, when Unger found himself with only the goalkeeper to beat. He shot feebly wide, though, and his distress was multiplied on the stroke of half-time when Taylor chested down a pass from Martin Butler and hit a 25-yard left-foot volley that flew inside the far post.

The visiting team pressed hard for an equaliser in the

second half, but Cambridge were not exactly resting on their laurels and it came as no surprise when Butler, the man of the match, doubled their advantage in the 74th minute. Five minutes later Taylor, in splendid isolation, chipped the advancing Margeson to complete the scoring.

This victory leaves Cambridge one point behind Cardiff City, the leaders, with the luxury of a game in hand. However, the word promotion is best whispered in the vicinity of Roy McFarland, their manager. "We are still a million miles from the second division," he said. "I believe in the old Liverpool adage of the season not starting until Easter — when you know exactly what you've got to do."

In contrast, Southend, relegated for the past two seasons, languish in eighth place. It seems remarkable that it was only three years ago that they were more than holding their own in the first division — winning 3-0 away to Charlton Athletic and doing the double over Leicester City. Those statistics take some swallowing these days.

CAMBRIDGE UNITED (4-4-2): Aven House — G Cheney, A Durrant, M Joseph, J Campbell — N Mullins, P Wardman, J Gorman (sub M Dyer, 67), M Hughes, J Taylor (sub R Walker, 67), M Butler. **SOUTHEND UNITED (5-3-2):** M Margeson — M Stuart, M Bosc, S Hunter, R Newman, S Coleman (sub J Thompson, 74) — K Maher, L Unger, S Houghton — B Coxon, M Wright (sub A Burns, 73). Referee: O Cook.

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5 Birmingham
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AMATEUR LEAGUE: Allyn Old
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1 Newcastle Blue Star 2; South
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1; West Auckland 0 Mankie 2

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Chatham 1; Westgate 2 Canton 3.
 1st: Almondbury v Burnham.
INSURANCE MEDIAN COMES:
 1st Premier division: Bokerill Swifts 3
 2nd Sprinter 4; Continental Star 0; Masey
 3rd 2; Dudley Sports 0 Colkist 4.
 4th: Tamworth 0 Chesham Hay 1; Ken-
 5th: Dudley B&L 1; Hair KA 1 Rederham
 6th: Alvechurch v Southern Kings
 7th: Highgate Challenge Cup: Fourth
 8th: Hambleton Rec 0 Alveston 4.
INTERNATIONAL COVERED WHEELS:

tion 1 Herwich and Parkston 0; Fellow-
 and Town 2 By; Halstead 1 Dies; 0
 Galesburg 1; Sudbury Town 3
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 Edge 1 Great Yarmouth 2.

IN WESSEX LEAGUE: First division:
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 1; Wimbome 1; Farnham 1; Mowey

ERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE
 Division: Amherston Watford
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 2. Garton 1 Brigg 3; Glasshoughton
 1 Skewton M.V. 1; North Fenby 5
 3. MW 3; Cosslett Albion 1 Selby 0; Port-
 2 2; Ploverton 0; Sheffield 1 Buxton 0
 4. y 1 Cosslett Town 3.

WA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS
 Division: Premier Division: Arnesby 0 Beacons-
 1; Barningside 2 Haspender 1;
 2. Sparta 3 Rufford Manor 2; Buxington

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 2. Bradwell St Peter 1 Potomac Bar 1
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EASTERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: Senior
 1 Woodhouseiens 3 Southgate County
 2 St. Marys College 1 Postponed:
 3 Hemmings v City of London. Senior
 4 Collesons 3 HAC 1; Ulysses 3 Tesco
 Club 0.

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26	3	4	5	14	15	6	4	3	20	16	35	+3
28	4	7	3	22	16	3	3	8	18	16	31	+4
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1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1990; 263: 1033-1036.

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Timid BBC finally loses its nerve on match point

So you decide to put money into a tennis tournament that contains 30 players whose bankability is distinctly ho-hum, but it also has Tim and Greg. And certainly both are splendid players and splendid chaps and, in this country, most hugely watchable. They are cast-iron box-office success. But neither of them is a stone-cold certainty to make the final, or even the semi-final, the big weekend days of your tournament.

So what do you do? It is the most anguishing thing for anyone involved in the business of sport. Sport is attractive because it is ultimately unpredictable. Good business practice is all about the ability to predict, to see around the next corner. That is how you get ahead of the game.

In other words, sport makes money because its unpredictability is so marketable. But it is hard to cope with as a business, because you can't predict it. This is a simple paradox that lies at the heart of sport biz.

Television is an aspect of sport biz, and a very important one. The BBC bought up the week's big tennis event, which seemed to be held in a disused Toys R Us warehouse in Battersea Park, so it was an obviously good idea to televise it. But what if they don't reach the final? The BBC invested money in the tournament, but not faith. They feared the unpredictability too much. In short, they bottled it.

This robustly tinorous approach seemed to be well and truly justified when Tim Henman went out in the first round. This is precisely the sort of result that has sport's money men screaming in anguish. You can supply burgers on demand and a burger is always a burger, but sport has a will of its own. You never know what you are going to get. You never have control of your own product. Tim's out? Well, that's sports biz.

It's great for mere punters, of course. Who is around the next corner? It is absolutely great, not knowing. Every time we go to a match or sport happening. And the BBC had it, but they didn't put it out; at least they didn't put it out live on *Sunday Grandstand*.

Instead, we had highlights two hours later. We missed 24 games altogether. From the way the package was put together, you could effortlessly predict what was happening and which way the games were going to go. This was the case until well into the third set. I couldn't get my mind on the case until it was 3-3 in the last.

It was pretty poor television, then. A pity, because it seemed to be an absolute cracker of a match. The BBC couldn't have known that. They couldn't have predicted with 100 per cent certainty that Greg would make the final and that it would be a better. So they played cautious.

It was a horrible decision to have to make, but the fact of the matter is that the Beeb got it wrong. Rusedski lost out in a hectic and splendid third set against Richard Krajicek, despite one of the most outrageous pieces of gamesmanship — in the strict Potterian sense of the term — seen on television for some time. It was great stuff.



SIMON BARNES

PROGRAMME NOTES

switch on a television with live sport before us, we might be about to watch the best match we have seen. We know we almost certainly won't. But that little question, that vast chasm of unpredictability, is what brings us back to sport again and again.

And the BBC knew that a live final with Tim or Greg — could God be wonderful this week and give us both? — was going to be very watchable indeed. But with neither, it would all be the most crashing bore for anyone save serious tennis buffs. And so the BBC lost its nerve, scheduled a live rugby league match and gave us extended highlights.

All right, the thing was live on BBC Choice, but most of us haven't got that yet. And Greg Rusedski made the final, which made it a mainstream

event. I sometimes hear people moaning about Greg and Tim: they don't win every tournament they play in, they have been disappointing, neither has won a grand-slam event, they are maddeningly incon-

sistent. They are all too British — even Greg. But hey, chaps. We have two Brits in the top ten and absolutely none busting a gut to take their places. Let us just enjoy these two while we have them.

Greg and Tim are living national treasures and the way the two are inextricably linked adds an extra dimension to it all. Their rivalry is a perpetual stimulus to each, one player waxing as the other wanes, until the balance tips back the other way again. We should all revel in this odd pair and do everything we can to enjoy them. That includes those who bring us sporting television. Brings us all the Tim and Greg you can. It's not as if they'll be around for ever.

That's my ball, and I'm taking it home



Ball and scrawl: Truss receives her illegally signed memento from Nigel Gibbs of Watford, while (right) her fluorescent, sponsored version, after successfully avoiding the net, is caught unawares as Howe of Swindon wallops in the winner

Being a football sponsor has never appealed to me particularly. Perhaps it is the cynic in me, but whenever I notice in the match programme that Dean Gammit's kit is generously sponsored by "Frankie and Alan" a frisson ticks my spine. Such naive, unquestioning selflessness. I have this persistent image, you see, of those poor souls Frankie and Alan answering the door one Saturday morning mid-season to find all Dean Gammit's laundry in a big basket on the step.

"You're the kit people, right? I'll be back for this afternoon," says the delivery man. "No starch in the shirts."

Thus, when I was asked to be honorary match ball sponsor for Watford v Swindon Town on Friday, I initially hedged a bit. I assumed there was a catch. But no, said the nice woman from Watford on the phone. I had won the deal fair and square in a business card draw. It was worth £400, and I could attend the match with three friends, have dinner in the restaurant (twice extra) and take home

the match ball, signed by the players. Wow. To take home the very ball used in the match; have a little display cabinet built; install a spotlight. People would say I was "deeply sad," wouldn't they? Which is, of course, in football terms, the highest compliment you can pay.

However, there certainly was a catch. It was that you can't get to Watford on the M25 on a Friday night unless you set out the night before. So instead of treating your friends to a free leisurely dinner at Vicarage Road, you make them sit in rainy traffic jams and watch the hours tick by. You then arrive at the ground ten minutes before kick-off in a heightened emotional state, ravenous with hunger, and more than ready to shoot the inevitable obstructive jobs with a walkie-talkie who won't let you park your car.

But there was an unexpected benefit to this anguish. A plus side to being late and angry and frustrated. It was that although the jobs were naturally out in force (Elton John himself was once denied a parking space at Watford), I discovered, after nearly three years in this grindingly unhelpful football business, a glorious open-sesame. "I must get through, I'm the match ball sponsor," I announced. And astonishingly, it worked.

To someone who has never before persuaded a stadium steward to use the tiniest amount of initiative on her behalf, here was a revelation. Someone let me park my car; someone else helped us scot through the wrong stand, rather than get right round the stadium to another entrance. It was unbelievable.

Forget being from *The Times*, incidentally: in taking the logical path from A to B at a sporting event, full accreditation and urgent professional necessity cut no ice whatever. In my desperation at the World Cup last year, where I spent five weeks battering my head against bolted doors, I finally memorised the French for "Let me through with this plasma" — a last-ditch ruse that would, of course, have required me to fill plastic bags with pints of my own blood, but on balance would

watch it on telly. We saw Watford not score at all, and Swindon score once. At half-time we ate the dinner (very good roast beef and veg) and I calmed down enough to get quite enthralled watching the ball itself (my ball) flying about. "Yellow for a night game, I suppose," I pointed out excitedly to my chums, handing them binoculars. "I can't see any signatures on it yet, though, can you?"

And the ball had a good game. Very active, quite nippy. Swindon's Bobby Howe caught it unawares in the closing minutes of the first half and scored with it, but otherwise it kept out of the net despite several close shaves. I started wondering whether it should have a pet name. Bobby Ball.

Benny Ball. I also worried what would be the consequences if (as often occurs) the ball went out of play and another was thrown in. Which ball did I get? Then, scanning the programme, I discovered the polemic news that there was a second match ball sponsor, "Watford Council and the Wiseman Family". What? The Wisemans get the match ball as well? Good grief.

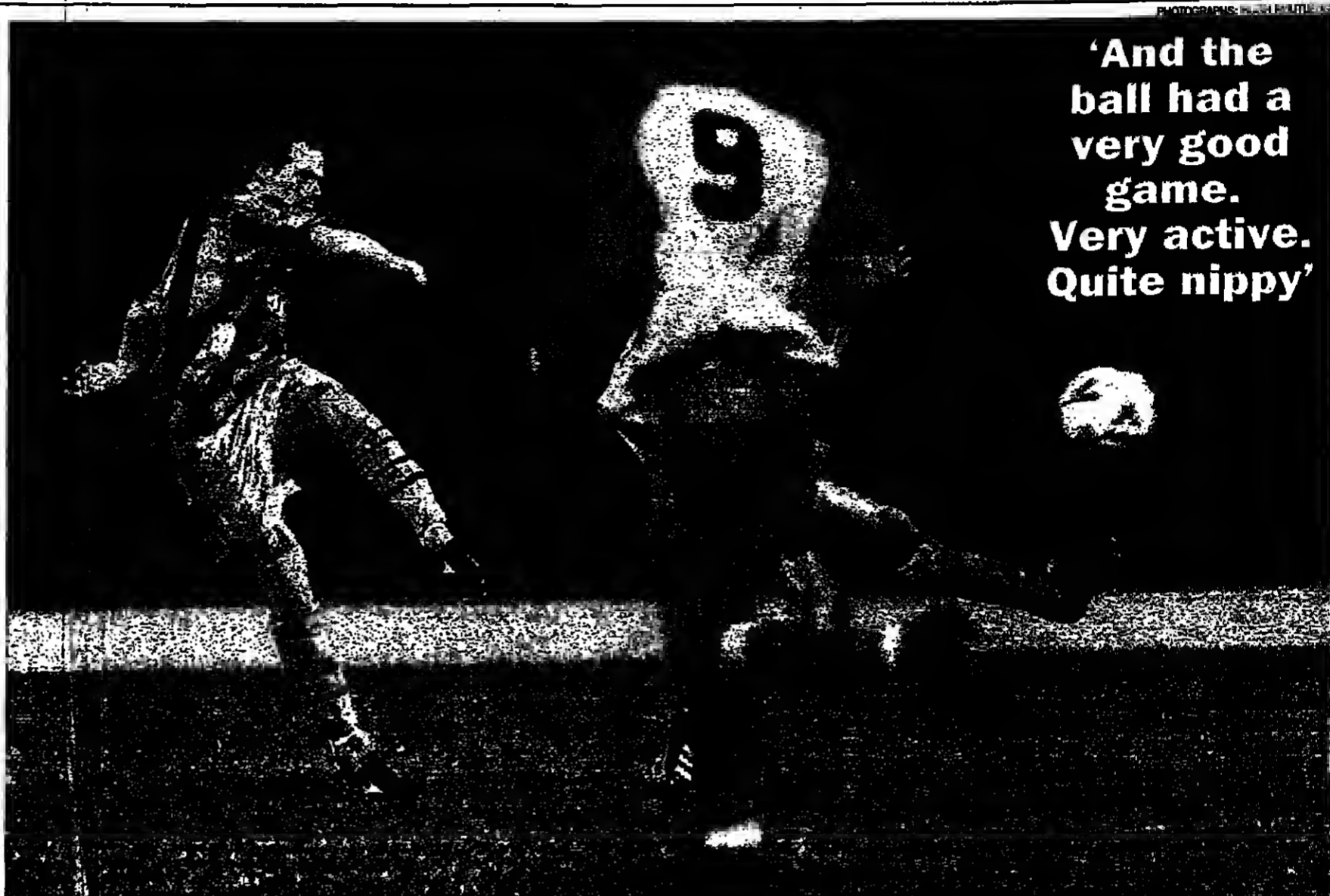
Nobody mentioned anything about a time share.

As is perhaps becoming clear, being match ball sponsor is not an ideal way to watch a football match. You get distracted by the wrong things, such as whether the ball is getting too wet for the signatures to stick. In the second half Swindon's George Ndah were a worrying bandage on his right hand — would he still be able to sign? I was vaguely aware of the Hornets doing their best to equalise — buzz, buzz — but mainly I was concerned with tracking the adventures of Bruce Ball or Brian Ball (Billy Ball?), wondering how much to insure it for, and musing why there are so few auctions of match balls at Christie's.

There's a signature that might be N. Wright, but I've squinted from all angles and it still looks more like Hilary. A few of the others are quite legible, but unfortunately bear no relation to the known personnel of the match. "A. Bally", for example, is very clear, but I'm sure I'd remember if he played. Meanwhile those lesser known players "M. Lags" and "Little Giehl" have signed with admirable flourish.

Still, it was a new football experience, and Watford were charming, and it was my own fault for underestimating the traffic. As I gaze now in wonderment at Bruno Ball, I must admit that my most treasured possession remains a book inscribed by Arthur Miller, but who knows? When Little Giehl becomes the new Alan Shearer, I can rethink my priorities. Meanwhile, however, I shall practise my wonderful open-sesame without delay at Monet in the 24th Century.

"How dare you block the path of a match ball sponsor?" is clearly always worth a go. And let's be honest, it's a lot less drastic than opening a vein.



'And the ball had a very good game. Very active. Quite nippy'

LYNNE TRUSS



definitely have been worth it. Anyway, we got in finally, puff, puff. Rain was falling on the perfect pitch: just under 9,000 people had turned out, the remainder of the usual crowd staying home to

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SPORTS LETTERS

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No excuses for Johnson

From Mr S Kyle

Sir, I disagree with Alasdair Reid (report, February 22). It is not a matter of changing the rules to allow punishment of Martin Johnson for stamping. It is time for the England selectors to stand up and be counted.

Martin Johnson cynically and cold-bloodedly stamped on John Leslie, while he lay unable to defend himself in the bottom of a ruck at Twickenham.

There was no element of mitigation, no heat of the moment, not even a suspicion of Leslie bending the rules a bit and putting himself at risk.

I looked back over a recording of the incident several times. Johnson approached the ruck from a distance, with everything in clear view, with plenty of time to assess the situation.

His body angle is clearly shown by the photograph reproduced in the paper. His feet are in front of his body. He is not driving into the ruck. His feet are in front of his body weight for one purpose, to stamp on his opponent's face or neck.

What message does it send to the players at every level if the England selectors continue to condone and reward such behaviour, by selecting this player?

Alasdair Reid states the law is an ass as far as violent conduct is concerned. The selectors are not obliged to

Percentage golfers make the game boring

From Mr H.E. Paice

Sir, John Hopkins (Strokeplay) no match for head-to-head, February 22 highlighted much of what I believe is causing so-called "big golf" to lose its attraction. To many of us ardent golfers and watchers of the game, whether live or on television, the "percentage" approach of the majority of players is boring.

As stated by Hopkins, a mistake or two may be costly, in every sense of the word, under strokeplay conditions, so we are then lumbered with the unending misery of putt-stalking, grass-throwing etc ad nauseum — far less

important in matchplay — as is the weather. Television commentators take great pride in "calling the shot". Why? Because they know the percentage play and are rarely surprised. I don't want to hear their sniggering; I'd much rather they speculated — or, shall we say, gambled on getting it right.

Surely a format can be devised to satisfy all interests?

Yours faithfully,
H.E. PAICE,
19 Ravenswood Avenue,
West Wickham,
Kent.

Blair's turn to play fair

From Mr Ivor Hall

Sir, Is there not a similarity between the match recently played between Arsenal and Sheffield United and the recent election of the leader of the Welsh assembly? Arsenal, whose actions in the first match were considered to be not in the interest of sportsmanship, offered a rematch — that was applauded by all.

In Wales, Tony Blair changed the electoral system that voted for Welsh leader of the Labour Party to suit his own ends, and his "puppet" duly won a hollow victory. Would it not be in the interest of fair play, and the credibility of the Prime Minister, to return this election on a level playing field by giving every

member of the trade unions an individual vote?

Yours faithfully,
IVOR HALL,
29 Erskine Hill,
Hampstead Garden Suburb,
London NW11.

From Mr Brian Kain
Sir, Now that justice has been seen to be done with Arsenal's FA Cup victory over Sheffield United, should we now not reconsider the fair play "rule"?

The incident in the first match resulted from a United player putting the ball into touch because a team-mate was hurt. Surely it should be the prerogative of the opposing team to make the gesture, ensuring that no time is wasted when players feign injury?

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN B. KAIN,
Stumbleton,
The Ford,
Little Hadham,
Herts SG11 2AY

From Mr Giles Lyon
Sir, In light of Arsène Wenger's refusal to accept Marc Overmars's "winning" goal in the FA Cup tie with Sheffield United, does this mean that players would be able to retract "goals" if they thought they were unfair, undeserved or just felt bad about scoring?

Yours faithfully,
GILES LYON,
150a Harbord Street,
London SW6.

Lordly confusion

From Mr Denis Franzini
Sir, I have made an application to MCC for tickets for a Test match to be played at Lord's in July. I have noted that the Regulations of MCC include "No ... confusion of any kind is permitted in any part of the ground". MCC further reserves the right to remove from the ground any

prove themselves of similar pedigree.

S KYLE,
11 Beaconsfield Place,
Aberdeen.

From Mr Aadel Kardooni
Sir, As a friend and former colleague of Martin Johnson's at Leicester, I found Simon Barnes' *Midweek View* (February 24) offensive. Simon Barnes builds a picture of Martin being a prehistoric man, aggressive and lacking in intelligence. At the same time, he points out that he has never met Martin. I am sure that if he had researched his subject he would have found that Martin is intelligent with an engaging disposition.

Although I am not condoning Martin's stamping on John Leslie, he is a hard and

physical man who plays his rugby in the same way. At the same time, Martin is not a so-called "dirty player" who looks to pounce on opponents to hand out his form of retribution.

Yours sincerely,
AADEL KARDOONI,
100 Piccadilly,
London W1.

only he, along with players such as Connolly, Radlinski, Robinson and Newlove, were available in the back line for Clive Woodward.

Yours sincerely,
ROB EDGERTON,
Cathedral Court,
University of Surrey,
Guildford, Surrey.

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Silk Cut Challenge Cup: Veteran Great Britain stand-off orchestrates Leeds victory

St Helens trampled underfoot by Powell

Leeds Rhinos.....24
St Helens.....16

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

IN 15 years of rugby league, Daryl Powell has only been to Wembley with Great Britain. Like everyone else associated with Leeds Rhinos, the veteran stand-off half, who again made a mockery of his troublesome feet as St Helens went the way of Wigan Warriors at Headingley on Saturday, is taking nothing for granted.

The fact that he had not required a painkilling injection, as Leeds maintained their nerve and discipline to reach the Silk Cut Challenge Cup quarter-finals, was a bonus. At 33, Leeds would be advised to wrap Powell in cotton wool. "There's a chip and a spur growing on a bone in my foot, so I've a problem. I always thought once I was past 32, I'd just take it year by year," he said.

Now that Tony Kemp and Graham Holroyd have left, Leeds need Powell fit and in his present form. Karl Pratt, Powell's junior by 15 years, was bought from Featherstone Rovers as an outstand-

ing stand-off prospect. In the meantime, the play of beginning there with Powell and pushing Jesty Harris on continues to work nicely.

Graham Murray, the Leeds coach, is an admirer. "You need your tough, experienced men to lead the way. Daryl was outstanding for the time he was on, both in attack and defence. Other guys feed off that," he said.

Powell, a confessed long shot for the coaching position when Murray leaves for North Sydney in October, said: "The way Wigan got themselves as a dynasty in the game is what this club's aiming for." With only a Yorkshire Cup victory to speak of in the 21 years since they last lifted the Challenge Cup, Leeds have reckoned before that they have a winning blend and been disappointed.

This time they may be proved right, not simply because they have a pack that refuses to buckle, but because they can adapt their game. Whereas Wigan were run off their feet, St Helens invited an arm wrestle and flinched. Leeds were initially sucked in by niggly spoiling, but adjusted the way that they defend-



Blackmore brushes Martyn, of St Helens, aside during Leeds Rhinos' victory at Headingley on Saturday

ed, cleaned up the tucks and, significantly, conceded only two penalties in the second half, while St Helens failed to curb their ill-discipline, which Harris punished with six penalty goals.

The errant forward trio of Davidson, Nickle and Matzau would be advised to learn controlled aggression, which Ellery Hanley, the St Helens coach, once showed. The

uncompromising nature of Hanley's team was not so much in question as the flair, with which St Helens sides are traditionally imbued yet surfaced fleetingly. Hanley's decision to drop Anthony Sullivan looked justified, as the wings were spare parts. One of the few times that Paul Newlove got the ball, he finished a superb move.

Verve rarely matched the St

Helens workrate, and the impetus of Jackson coming on at hooker for Leeds set in motion their opening try by Ryan Sheridan. The darting Sheridan was at the heart of their other try by Newton after Harris had kicked St Helens into submission. Atheson pocketed a late consolation, but on the eve of a long JJB Super League campaign, the road ahead looks

rockier for Hanley than for his former club.

SCORERS: Leeds Rhinos: Tries: Sheridan, Newton, Goals: Harris (6). St Helens: Tries: Newlove, Atheson. Goals: Long (4).

LEEDS RHINOS: I. Harris, L. Powell, R. Blackmore, G. Davidson, F. Cummings, O. Powell, R. Sheridan, M. Matzau, T. Newton, O. Flanagan, A. Murray, A. Farrell, M. Clavell, Substitutes: M. B. Williams, L. Jackson, A. Hay, J. Matzau.

ST HELENS: P. Atheson, C. Smith, T. Stewart, P. Newlove, F. Tulage, T. Martyn, S. Long, J. O'Neill, K. Cunningham, P. Davidson, A. Farrell, S. Nickle, Substitutes: K. Ito, P. Atheson, V. Matzau, P. Williams. Referee: S. Carrington (Widnes)

Wolves begin to justify bold optimism

Warrington Wolves.....34
Halifax Blue Sox.....4

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

THERE is nothing like a cup run to inspire confidence, and with new backers and Peter Deakin, from Saracens, newly installed in the chief executive's seat, Warrington is a hotbed of optimism. And with justification after Warrington Wolves' victory yesterday.

The feel-good factor was confirmed by an impressive defeat of Halifax Blue Sox, for whom the first round of JJB Super League matches next weekend presents an early chance for revenge. Halifax were eliminated early from the Silk Cut Challenge Cup last year and reached the play-offs by finishing third in the league, but Warrington gave a clear indication of the stiffer competition this season.

More satisfying than tries by four of their back line and another by Roper, a centre converted to loose forward, was restricting Halifax to just two penalty goals by Holroyd. "That's the best defence since I've been here," Darryl van de Velde, the Warrington coach, said.

Halifax were only 10-4 behind and had been restored to their full complement, with Mercer's re-emergence from the sin-bin, when they were caught offside in the 54th minute. Roper tapped to

himself on the Warrington 20-metre line and was out of sight by the time that the Blue Sox players realised what was happening. Warrington were inspired by the live-wire Briers at scrum half, while Nutley, the prop, was everywhere. With Farrar hugely influential in the rear-guard effort, Halifax never looked like adding to their points in the second half.

Three of Warrington's tries got the green light by the video referee, the first after five minutes when a charge down by McCurrie came under scrutiny in the build-up to a score by the 34-year-old Forster, the only survivor of Warrington's last Wembley final appearance, in 1990. Warrington could have paid for a clutch of missed chances in the first half, but with a strong wind at their backs in the second, they blew away a disjointed Halifax.

Hume's clever footwork enabled him to profit from spillages by Bloem and Gibson. Kohn-Love eased past Cardis to score beneath the posts, before Penny's late try was converted by Briers.

SCORERS: Warrington Wolves: Tries: Forster, Roper, Harris, Kohn-Love, Penny. Goals: Briers (2). Halifax Blue Sox: Goals: Holroyd (2).

WARRINGTON WOLVES: I. Penny, J. Roper, T. Kohn-Love, A. Hume, M. Forster, S. Wilson, L. Briers, M. Hume, O. Nutley, S. Gibson, S. McCune, J. Roper, Substitutes: O. Hanger, M. Warrington, G. O'Brien, S. Kohn.

HALIFAX BLUE SOX: G. Holroyd, J. Bloem, O. Gibson, A. Craig, O. Bouwery, C. Chester, G. Crichton, P. Broadbent, P. Penney, K. Stewart, S. Marshall, C. Gillespie, G. Mercer, Substitutes: N. Penney, M. Moore, O. Cardis, O. Clark. Referee: R. Smith (Castleford)

Salford storm through

Huddersfield Giants.....14
Salford Reds.....22

By PETER WILSON

SALFORD Red's much-changed team still have their sights set on going one step further than a year ago when they reached the Silk Cut Challenge Cup semi-final.

They booked their quarter-final place against Castleford Tigers by holding off the spirited challenge of Huddersfield Giants and it was a credit to both sides that they were able to beat the elements - driving rain and a strong wind - to provide such an enthralling contest.

The long-anticipated battle of the scrum halves was edged by Martin Crompton, who scored one try and was behind much of the damage to the Huddersfield cause.

Not that blame for the Giants' defeat could be heaped on the shoulders of Bobby Goulding, his three-quarter rival, who never gave an inch in a gruelling struggle.

A penalty by Goulding put Huddersfield in front but Salford were the first to exploit the conditions when Steve Blakeley heaved a high kick that Paul Cook failed to gather, and Crompton was able to pounce for the opening try after 17 minutes.

Huddersfield hit back in almost identical circumstances. This time it was Goulding who launched a high kick, Bobby Thompson who failed to gather and Danny Arnold who went over for the try. Goulding's conversion, into the wind put the Giants in front, but their lead only lasted a couple of minutes before Gary Casey crossed for the first of his two tries.

Facing a two-point deficit at the break, any optimism Huddersfield harboured was shattered five minutes into the second half, when a short kick from Crompton skidded across the wet surface and Casey timed his dive to perfection and touched down.

Jim Lenihan solved to keep the Giants in the hunt, but their chances disappeared three minutes before the end when Scott Martin crossed unchallenged for the score that took the Reds out of reach.

SCORERS: Huddersfield: Tries: Lenihan, Arnold, Goals: Goulding (3). Salford: Goals: Blakeley (3), Tries: Casey (2), Martin, Crompton. HUDDERSFIELD GIANTS: I. Arnold, P. Cook, J. Lenihan, P. Loughlin, A. Thompson, C. Weston, G. Goulding, M. Fitzgerald, O. Russell, B. Richards, O. Brough, J. Berry, M. Shaw, Substitutes: N. Ward, P. Reilly, B. Jackson, P. Pickens. SALFORD REDS: G. Bradshaw, J. Hayes, B. Thompson, G. Casey, P. Clark, S. Blakeley, M. Crompton, N. Bayne, T. Alder, P. Southern, H. Smith, D. Shaw, O. Hume, Substitutes: S. Martin, R. Highton, G. Briggs, J. Farrell. Referee: S. Priestley (Castleford)

Bulls avoid Rhinos in draw for last eight

LEEDS RHINOS and Bradford Bulls, the two favourites, were kept apart in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup quarter-final draw last night (Christopher Irvine writes). The revitalised Warrington Wolves were presented with a difficult tie away to Bradford on Sunday week and an early return to his former club for Peter Deakin, their new chief executive.

The other televised match, on the BBC the day before, is likely to be the other all-JJB Super League tie between Castleford Tigers, who eliminated York last Friday, and Salford Reds. Widnes hung on against Leigh yesterday to win 20-17 and earned home advantage once more against Leeds.

Whitehaven are the only other Northern Ford Premier-

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London v Whitehaven
Castleford v Salford
Widnes v Leeds
Bradford v Warrington
□ Ties to be played week-end of March 13-14

ship side left in the competition after they beat Oldham 18-2. They face the longest trip in rugby league, from Cumbria, to face London Broncos at the Sloop Memorial Ground, Martin Offiah, who missed most of last season, scored London's only try as they survived a scare away at Hull Kingston Rovers in a grim 6-0 victory, which put them into the last eight for only the second time.

McNamara stands out

Wakefield Trinity Wildcats...8
Bradford Bulls.....26

By MARTIN RICHARDS

STEVE McNAMARA, the Bradford Bulls captain, whose place is by no means guaranteed in the strongest line-up, played a pivotal role as they gained a bruising passage into the quarter-finals of the Challenge Cup yesterday.

Expectations of a runaway win for Bradford were not realised, for the Belle Vue mud and a swirling wind helped close the gap in class. Wakefield lived up to their new name, Wildcats, even after Bradford had opened up a 14-2 lead after 21 minutes. Henry Paul put Bradford ahead when he picked up a loose ball to score wide out before Stuart Fielden, an impressive young forward,

crossed unopposed after McNamara's sweetly-timed pass had sucked in the Wakefield cover.

Wakefield, anxious to dispel fears that they will be the whipping boys of Super League this season, dug deep and came up with a rousing try from their Australian stand-off, Shane Kenward, a minute into the second half after Michael Withers had knocked on straight from the kick-off.

Bradford were suddenly on the back foot and it took another intervention by McNamara to settle matters. He threw only the faintest of dummies but the defence opened up invitingly and the loose forward charged through for a 58th-minute try which took all the sting out of Wakefield's revival. James Lowe, the hooker, added a fourth try with ten minutes remaining.

Matthew Elliott, the Bradford coach, said: "It was an ugly match in ugly conditions and we didn't adapt well enough to the wind and the wet. But all credit to Wakefield who showed great character. But we didn't do the smart things very well today."

Bradford's scrum half, Paul Deacon, retired at half-time with a leg injury after landing three kicks at goal and Paul also received an injury, which forced him to leave the field in the second half.

SCORERS: Wakefield Trinity: Tries: Kenward, Goals: Hodgson (2). Bradford Bulls: Tries: H. Paul, Fielden, McNamara, Lowe, Goals: Deacon (3), McNamara (2). WAKEFIELD TRINITY WILDCATS: A. Hodgson, L. Stott, A. Bunker, K. Gough, N. Low, S. Kenward, G. Tomkinson, P. Smith, L. H. B. Bunker, A. Paul, P. Deacon, W. Pritchard, P. Kemp, Substitutes: M. March, W. McDonald, F. Wakene, G. Low. BRADFORD BULLS: M. McNamara, T. Kenward, O. Pritchard, S. May, N. McInnes, H. Paul, P. Deacon, B. Macdonald, J. Lowe, S. Fielden, B. Dwyer, O. Boyle, S. McKinnon, Substitutes: N. Harrison, J. Donaghy, M. Forster, W. Jowett. Referee: S. Nicholson (Whitehaven)

Bromsgrove win in usual style

By JOHN GOODBODY

THERE is little disputing the recent dominance of Bromsgrove at under-18 girls' hockey. Yesterday, in the rain and gusts of Milton Keynes, they took the British Aerospace national title for the third successive year with a performance of consummate maturity.

Last year they beat the other four regional winners in the finals by scoring 18 goals and conceding none with a team that included Lucilla Wright, the full England international. This season, they have Sally Walton and Jane Allen, who have both represented England schools, as well as three German age-group internationals who are studying at the Worcestershire school for a year.

The cumulative effect has been impressive. Last Wednesday they warmed up for this tournament by drawing 0-0 with Cambridge University, who were virtually at full strength. Already winners of the national under-18 indoor title this season, Bromsgrove had few evident weaknesses yesterday as they completed a unique double of national championships.

They successively beat Arnold School, Blackpool, Wycombe High School, and King's Canterbury, all by 3-0. In the last game of the round they won 4-0 against Millfield, who earlier had been beaten 1-0 by Wycombe, but had looked the most likely challengers to Bromsgrove.

Eight of the Bromsgrove goals were scored by the long-striding Walton, who plays as an advanced striker and who also had near misses with some deft reverse-stick shots. "Another day they would have

SPORT IN SCHOOLS

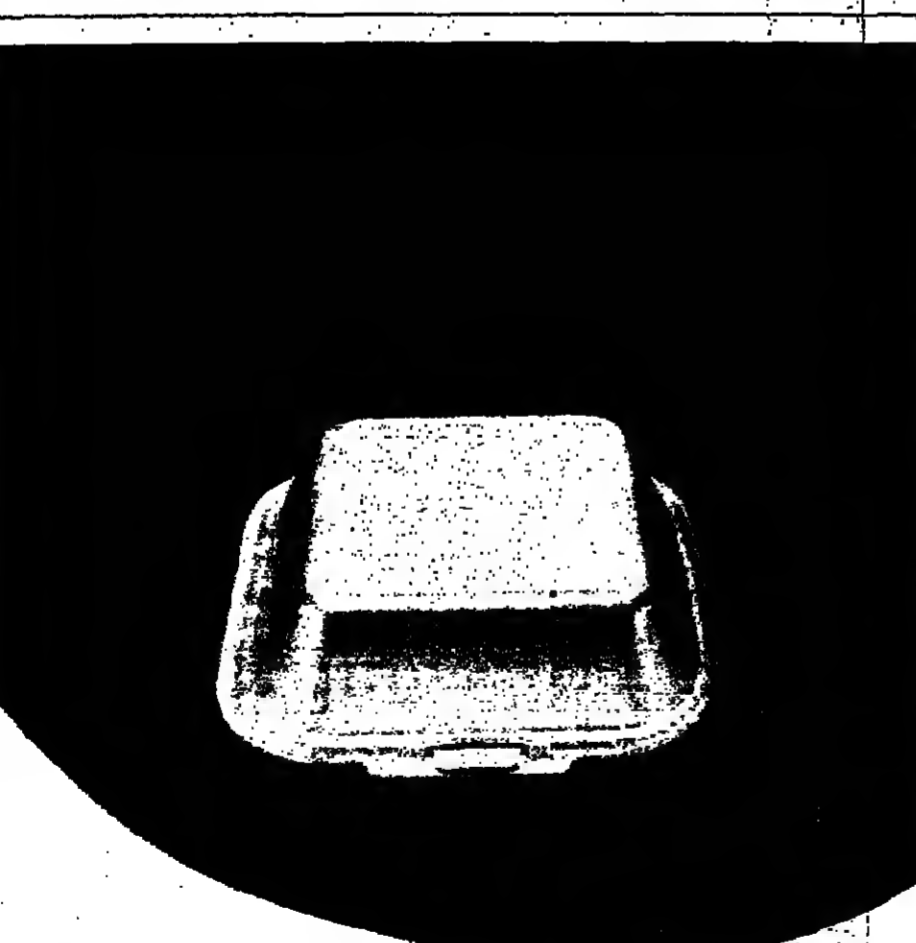
gone in," she said afterwards. "It was a real team performance from us but having the three Germans made it all possible."

The trio of Ulrike Patschkowski, Luisa Leisewitz and Laura Lemke gave an impetus to the team because of their physical presence and the difficulty opponents found in getting the ball away from them. They are part of a group of 28 Germans attending the independent school this year, although they do not receive any sports bursaries.

Caroline Ralph, the Bromsgrove team manager, said: "We got better and better as the day went on. The success of the under-18s has been the result of the girls playing together in the younger age groups and the results coming to fruition at senior level."

"We are almost there with the under-16s. The programme is coming through so that we have a concrete package at all age levels. It is a long-term process."

RESULTS: Bromsgrove School, Worcestershire 3 Arnold School, Blackpool 0; Millfield, Somerset 2 Wycombe HS, Buckinghamshire 1; Arnold 0 King's Canterbury 1; Wycombe 0 Bromsgrove 2; King's 0 Millfield 1; Wycombe 0 Arnold 0; Bromsgrove 3 King's 0; Arnold 0 Millfield 1; King's 0 Wycombe 1; Millfield 0 Bromsgrove 4. Final placings: 1, Bromsgrove 12pts; 2, Wycombe 7, 3, Millfield 6, 4, King's 5, 5, Arnold 1.



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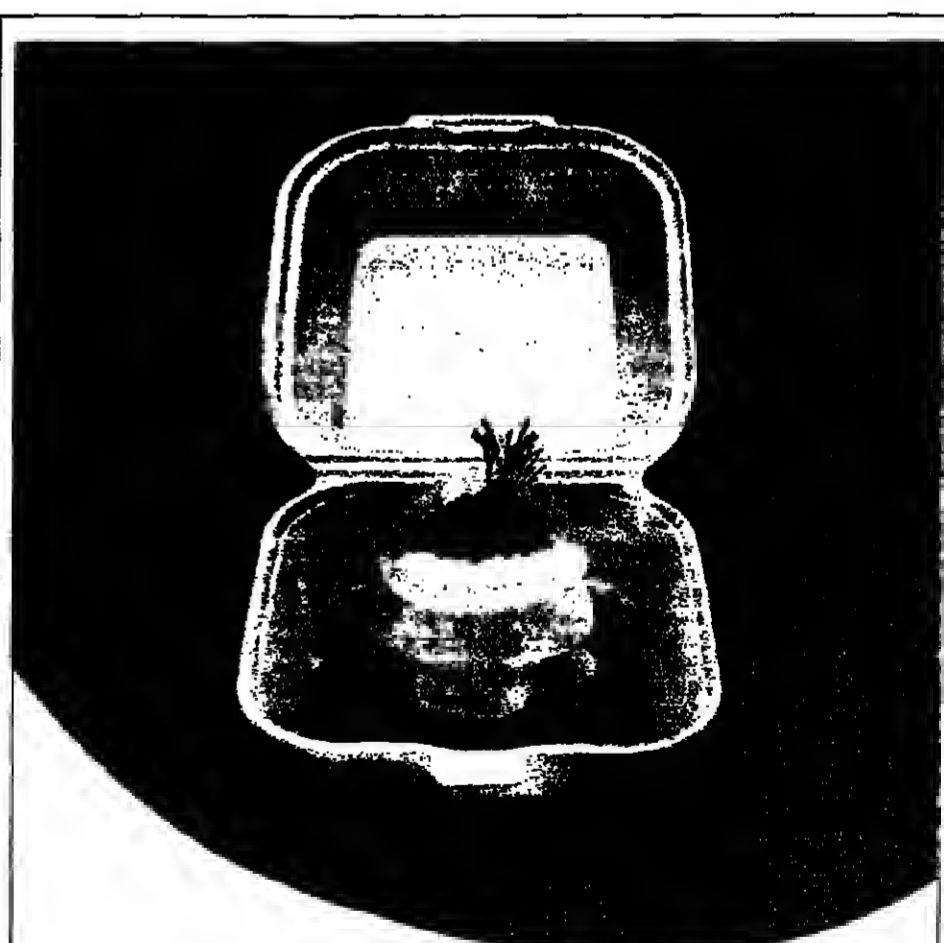
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Our Fantasy Formula One game will put you in the driving seat for the thrills and spills of the new grand-prix season, opening in Melbourne next Sunday. McLaren's Mika Häkkinen will be battling to retain his Formula One crown against stiff opposition from former world champion Michael Schumacher in his Ferrari. Also hungry for success will be three British drivers, Damon Hill, David Coulthard and Eddie Irvine. The winner of our Fantasy Formula One title will drive away at the end of the season in a TVR Cerbera, valued at over £40,000. This dream machine has a top speed of more than 160mph and does 0-60 in 4.2 seconds. Second prize is £10,000 plus a trip for two to the 2000 Monaco Grand Prix. Third prize is £5,000 plus a pair of four-day passes for the 2000 British GP. There are also four-day

RICHARD HARRIS



pass for the 1999-2000 British GP. You can also win a trip for two to the 2000 Monaco Grand Prix. The game is played by first selecting a team of three drivers from the 1999 Formula One grid. Then, each week, you select a driver from the grid to race. The driver who finishes highest in the race earns points for your team. The team with the most points at the end of the season wins. The game is played by first selecting a team of three drivers from the 1999 Formula One grid. Then, each week, you select a driver from the grid to race. The driver who finishes highest in the race earns points for your team. The team with the most points at the end of the season wins.

THE PRIZES



STAR PRIZE The manager with the top score on our fantasy leaderboard after the final race of the season will win a £41,100 TVR Cerbera, plus a VIP trip for two to any one of next season's grands prix.
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3RD PRIZE £5,000 plus a pair of four-day passes to the 2000 British Grand Prix.
INDIVIDUAL RACE WINNERS The manager of the team that scores the most points in each grand prix will win a pair of four-day passes, with centre transfer, for the 1999 or 2000 British Grands Prix, courtesy of Silverstone.

Silverstone
For details of events at Silverstone call 01327 857273

THE SCORING SYSTEM

DRIVERS For each lap completed: 1 point. **Finishing position:** 1st 60 points; 2nd 50; 3rd 40; 4th 30; 5th 25; 6th 20; 7th 18; 8th 16; 9th 14; 10th 12; 11th 10; 12th 8; 13th 6; 14th 4; 15th 3; 16th 2; 17th 1; 18th 0.5; 19th 0.2; 20th 0.1. **Qualifying position:** Pole 30 points; 2nd 25; 3rd 20; 4th 15; 5th 10; 6th 8; 7th 6; 8th 4; 9th 3; 10th 2; 11th 1; 12th 0.5; 13th 0.2; 14th 0.1. **Improvement from starting grid to finishing position:** 3 points per place improved. **Fastest lap:** 10 points. **Penalty points:** Any incident resulting in a driver being made to start from the back of the grid or pit lane -10 points. Any incident resulting in elimination during a race -10 points. Not starting after qualifying for a race -10 points. Speeding in pit lane -5 points. Black flag -20 points.

CONSTRUCTORS **Finishing position (first car only):** 1st 30 points; 2nd 25; 3rd 20; 4th 15; 5th 10; 6th 8; 7th 6; 8th 4; 9th 3; 10th 2; 11th 1; 12th 0.5; 13th 0.2; 14th 0.1. **Qualifying position:** Pole 30 points; 2nd 25; 3rd 20; 4th 15; 5th 10; 6th 8; 7th 6; 8th 4; 9th 3; 10th 2; 11th 1; 12th 0.5; 13th 0.2; 14th 0.1. **Improvement from starting grid to finishing position:** 3 points per place improved. **Fastest lap:** 10 points. **Penalty points:** Any incident resulting in a car being made to start from the back of the grid or pit lane -10 points. Any incident resulting in elimination during a race -10 points. Not starting after qualifying for a race -10 points. Speeding in pit lane -5 points.

BONUS POINTS apply to six grands prix during the 1999 Formula One championship, the first of which is the Brazilian Grand Prix. **Correctly predicting winning driver:** 100 points; second place: 200 points; third place: 300 points.

MAKE THREE SELECTIONS FROM EACH OF THE FOUR GROUPS BELOW



Damon Hill

David Coulthard

Mika Häkkinen

Michael Schumacher

Eddie Irvine

DRIVERS

GROUP A		GROUP B		GROUP C		GROUP D	
01 Mika Häkkinen	07 Eddie Irvine	13 Alex Zanardi	19 Nick Heidfeld	25 Ralf Schumacher	31 Pedro de la Rosa	37 Jos Verstappen	43 Marc Gené
02 Michael Schumacher	08 Olivier Panis	14 Ruben Barrichello	20 Jos Verstappen	26 Heinz-Harald Frentzen	32 Mika Salo	38 Jarno Trulli	44 Christian Klien
03 Damon Hill	09 Jean Alesi	15 Mika Salo	21 Jarno Trulli	27 Jarno Trulli	33 Jarno Trulli	39 Jarno Trulli	45 Jarno Trulli
04 David Coulthard	10 Jean Alesi	16 Jacques Villeneuve	22 Jacques Villeneuve	28 Jacques Villeneuve	34 Jacques Villeneuve	40 Jacques Villeneuve	46 Jacques Villeneuve
05 Alessandro Zanardi	11 Johnny Herbert	17 Marc Gené	23 Marc Gené	29 Marc Gené	35 Marc Gené	41 Marc Gené	47 Marc Gené
06 Jacques Villeneuve	12 Johnny Herbert	18 Jacques Villeneuve	24 Jacques Villeneuve	30 Jacques Villeneuve	36 Jacques Villeneuve	42 Jacques Villeneuve	48 Jacques Villeneuve

FANTASY FORMULA ONE 24-HOUR ENTRY LINE: 0640 67 88 88

+44 870 901 4206 from the Republic of Ireland

0640 calls cost 60p per minute (standard tariffs apply to +44 870 calls)

TO ENTER BY PHONE

Readers in the UK and Republic of Ireland can enter by calling the 24-hour hotline on 0640 67 88 88 (+44 870 901 4206 from Irish Republic). Calls last about seven minutes and must be made using a Touch-tone telephone (most telephones with * and # keys are Touch-tone).

Follow the instructions on the line and tap in your 12 two-digit selections in turn. The order in which you register your first three drivers will be your predictions for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd finishing places for the grands prix where bonus points apply. You will then be asked to give your Fantasy Formula One team name (maximum 16 characters), together with your own name, address, postcode and daytime telephone number (please note, you need to speak these details). You will receive a 10-digit PIN as confirmation of your entry. You can enter a team at any time until noon on Thursday, March 4, 1999 to qualify for the start of the Australian Grand Prix.

TO ENTER BY POST

Complete the form, right, with your 12 two-digit selections. The order in which you register your first three drivers will be your predictions for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd finishing places for the grands prix where bonus points apply. The first of these is the Brazilian Grand Prix.

Give your Fantasy Formula One team name (maximum 16 characters), together with your own name, address, postcode and daytime telephone number. Readers in the UK and Republic of Ireland should enclose a sterling cheque for £3 or provide their credit-card details. The entry fee for readers resident outside the UK or Republic of Ireland is £15. Post the form to: The Times NatWest Fantasy Formula One, Abacus House, Dudley Street, Luton LU1 1ZZ. You will receive a 10-digit PIN as confirmation of your entry.

For your Fantasy Formula One team to start scoring points at the Australian GP, which takes place in Melbourne next Sunday, postal entries must be received by first post on Wednesday, March 3, 1999. Entries received after this date will only score points for any remaining grands prix.

THE TIMES NATWEST FANTASY FORMULA ONE ENTRY FORM

Complete this form with your credit-card details, or enclose a sterling cheque for £3 payable to Fantasy Formula One. For readers resident outside the UK or Republic of Ireland the fee is £15. Post it to: The Times NatWest Fantasy Formula One, Abacus House, Dudley Street, Luton LU1 1ZZ. Your entry must be received by first post on Wednesday, March 3, 1999 to qualify for the Australian Grand Prix.

GROUP A AND GROUP B DRIVERS

1st 2nd 3rd

GROUP C AND GROUP D CONSTRUCTORS

1st 2nd 3rd

Team Name (maximum of 16 characters)

I have read and accept the rules and wish to enter the Fantasy Formula One game.

Signature Date

1. On which days do you usually buy The Times?
Monday ☐ Tuesday ☐ Wednesday ☐
Thursday ☐ Friday ☐ Saturday ☐
Don't usually buy The Times ☐

2. Which National Daily Newspaper(s) do you buy at least once a week?
☐ The Times ☐ The Sun ☐ The Mirror ☐ The Daily Mail ☐ The Daily Express ☐ The Daily Telegraph ☐ The Sunday Times ☐ The Sunday Mirror ☐ The Sunday Express ☐ The Sunday Telegraph ☐

3. Which National Sunday Newspaper(s) do you buy almost always (3-4 copies per month)?
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4. Which National Sunday Newspaper(s) do you buy quite often (1-2 copies per month)?
☐ The Times ☐ The Sun ☐ The Mirror ☐ The Daily Mail ☐ The Daily Express ☐ The Daily Telegraph ☐ The Sunday Times ☐ The Sunday Mirror ☐ The Sunday Express ☐ The Sunday Telegraph ☐

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Expiry date MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐

Signature

RULES

1 Race results will be taken as those standing at midnight on the Sunday of each grand prix. Subsequent changes affecting those results, as decreed by the FIA, will be applied to Fantasy Formula One. 2 Changes of circumstances: If a driver is replaced for any reason you will be deemed to have chosen the new driver; if a driver transfers to another team you will keep that driver as your selection. 3 New drivers become available for transfer as and when they become participants in the Formula One season. 4 In the event of more than one entrant having the same score at the end of the competition a tie break will come into effect to decide the overall prize-winner. 5 In the event of more than one entrant having the same score for an individual race prize, the winner will be selected at random. 6 The computerised record of your entry will be considered to be the entry. Indecipherable, inaudible or incomplete applications will be null and void and no refund will be made. 7 Prizes will only be awarded to teams which complete three drivers from Group A, three drivers from Group B, three constructors from Group C and three constructors from Group D. 8 There is no limit to the number of teams a person may enter. 9 Telephone entries and transfers are made by Touch-tone (DTMF) telephones only. Entries should take about seven minutes and cost 60p per min. Calls from payphones cost approximately double. 10 Promotional and explanatory copy relating to the game forms part of the terms and conditions for participation. 11 Entrants must be 18 or over. 12 The prize of a TVR Cerbera 4.2 does not include insurance. In the event of the winner being resident outside the UK, he/she will be responsible for all costs associated with arranging delivery from the UK. 13 Normal T.M. competition rules apply and the decisions of the editors are final. 14 Promoter: News Promotions Ltd, PO Box 495, Virginia Street, Luton LU1 2QY.

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SATURDAY'S
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When there's more to fishing than fish

Brian Clarke finds that a watching brief on new waters can pay dividends

The motto of a club that I belong to is *Piscator non solum piscatur*. It more or less translates as "there is more to fishing than fish". Roderick Haig-Brown, the great English writer who lived in America, went further. He suggested that fishing might just be an excuse to be near rivers.

Anyone who has held a rod for a season or two will agree with the first. Last week, exploring a new piece of water that I will be fishing this year, I came close to believing the second. I had gone to get my bearings: to relate the plan on the map to the view from the bank; to dip myself into the sights and sounds; to drool just a little. So I took no rod.

It was a slogging walk. The river had been over its banks for weeks and had just slid back. Pools were winking from the meadows like scattered coins. The grass was laid flat as though by a wind. The debris of the flood was all around — trapped in trailing branches or left high and dry where the water had dropped it.

The first place I came to was a shallow bay. Bird tracks and animal tracks marked pathways around the margins. A sudden movement smudged my eye and I half-glanced fur. It crossed the ground between a couple of fallen branches and melted between them. It had been low and fluid, had been there and gone so quickly that I might have imagined it. A pity that I hadn't. A mink. Damn.

A little upstream, a willow had fallen over the water. It was massively tangled, so dense that it pushed the heavy water into the far bank. Beyond the tree's end, the river raced. Behind the tree in summer, there would be slow water. A crinkle on the surface would mark the divide. Fish would be able to lie in the slow water and dine on the food that the fast water dropped.

The crinkle would be an excellent place for chub, dace, roach, trout — you name it. Barbel might lie out in the current. There would be at least one pike in the calm behind the branch. It would lie there, cold as a mortuary slab, waiting for a victim, its fins turning and idling, its tail-edge crinkling, ready to move forward like an aimed shadow, ready



One to bank on: catching a prized predator will bring smiles, but sometimes just being near to a river may be enough to satisfy an angler

to gather itself for its ravaging rush.

Further upstream, I startled a snipe. A heron laboured overhead, tilted a little, bent its wings over curves of air and glided down them into the near middle-distance. The pennants of last year's sedges streamed in a non-existent wind. Ice in a puddle crunched underfoot.

I had been told about the Bailey bridge. It crossed the top of one of the beats that is reserved for trout fishing. The water slid under the bridge and widened into a great sweep of pewter, rumpling and racing. In summer it would be shallow enough to wade. Sometimes, I had

'There would be at least one pike behind the branch, lying cold as a mortuary slab, waiting for a victim'

been told, great fish were taken from this stretch, mostly at last light.

I stood on the bridge and looked downstream. The world faded. I could feel the warmth of June and see the sun going low and the ripe-for-mating flies gauging the air. Broad backs would break the surface and rings ebb out. That will

be the wading line, if the bottom is good. The likely casting points would be there and there. I smiled. All nonsense, of course. When the river dropped, its character would change utterly and there would be no real telling where the fish would be. Still, I got two just by day-dreaming.

I turned downstream and

crossed to the carrier that has the hatches in the middle. A beer can turned in endless circles in a vortex behind one of the gates. An oink of Canada geese waited overhead. Two fallow deer, wearing their white hearts on their rumps, appeared from behind a bush and bounded away.

The carrier is trout-only, as well. It looked as though it was going to be early-season water with only the upper part holding fish when the river had dropped. I hoped that summer would prove me wrong, which would suit me fine. The fishing was going to be upstream by only, which suited me diu.

To the mill. Another eventful walk, now through fine rain and a rising breeze. Snowdrops were out under an ageing oak. A heap of matted feathers told of disaster for something and triumph for something else: nature as red as ever in tooth and beak. A formation of ducks fledged downwind, like an arrowhead homing. A line of young willows marked a short reach of bank, their shoots so red that they made each tree glow. Close-up in the rain, every twig was threaded with half-moons of cut light.

The mill looked great and the mill-pools awesome. In one-direction there were swims that looked made for barbel. In the other, sitting like a garden gnome under a green umbrella, an old hand was leaning back in his chair, watching his float.

He had fished this river for 40 years. It was good but not what it used to be. Dredging to reduce the flooding had ruined the bottom and now there weren't enough waterfalls to feed the little fish. Fewer little fish meant fewer big fish, he explained — but if I put in the hours I would get the results, he could promise me that. Definitely.

I took a look at the big bends upstream — at the Log Swim, at Blue Bridge Pool and at somewhere else — then paused under an ancient tree to look around. There was a brush of wings and a great bird suddenly broke cover above my head and waited noiselessly away. What a treat: a barn owl so close that I could have touched it with a rod-end. I had a wonderful view of it, saw its dished eyes clearly, saw clearly the pale honey of its back before the bird showed its belly and instantly turned white.

I watched the owl out of sight then turned back to the car. I did not hurry. By the time I was into it and scrunching down the track, I was as relaxed and mellow as any day has left me. It had been a full day's fishing — almost — even without the rod. *Piscator non solum piscatur*. Just being near a river can be enough.

□ Brian Clarke's column appears on the first Monday of each month

BOXING

Dunne's talents shown on Holiday

By SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

COLIN DUNNE made new friends as he was finally given the exposure on television to prove his worth. The four million viewers who watched him on ITV on Saturday night cannot have failed to see what a crowd-pleaser the World Boxing Union lightweight champion is. Dunne took on Phillip Holiday, of South Africa, who many thought to be well above his class — and beat him out of sight.

Holiday was only able to impose his much-vaunted technical superiority in short bursts and had to keep moving forward in the hope of wiping out the points deficit. As a result, the bout moved to an exciting conclusion — with the crowd on its feet as Holiday tried to find a big punch and Dunne refused to give way.

After receiving a cut just below his hairline in the fifth round, Holiday seemed to lose his earlier sharpness and concentration as blood poured steadily down his face. The ring doctor said that the flow of blood was not getting in his eyes and so it would not have been proper to stop the contest. Dunne took full advantage.

The aim of Dunne's manager, Terry Toole, is to now get his boxer a contest that will make some money. John Hyland, the promoter, was hoping to make a match with Billy Scherer, the European champion. However, Mickey Duff, Scherer's manager, said that as Scherer had a chance to challenge for the WBC title, Dunne would have to wait.

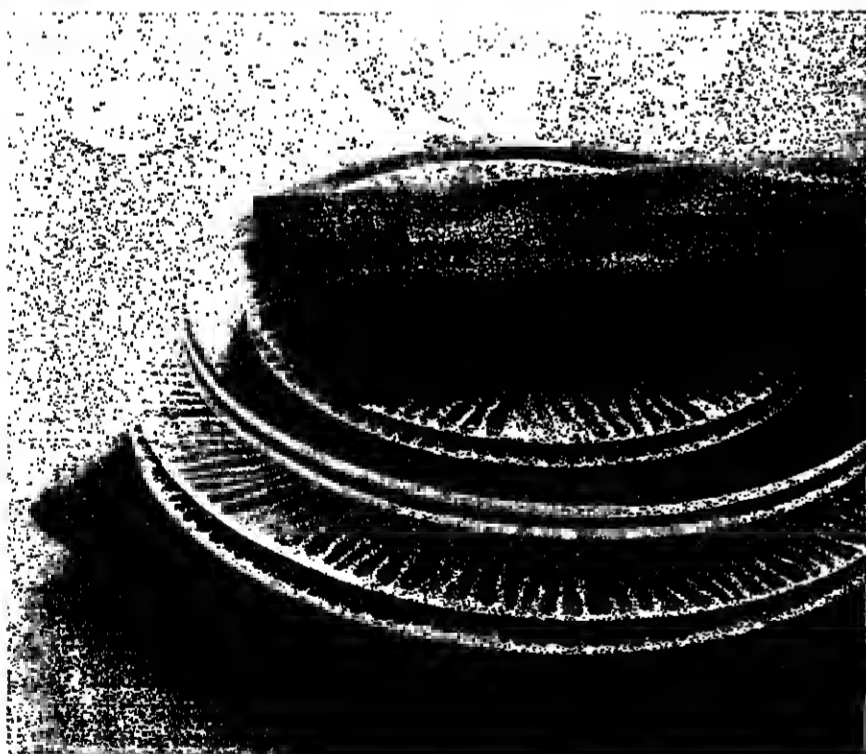
Referring to the gash Holiday sustained, and no doubt the fact that Scherer tends to cut easily, Duff parried Hyland's offer. "Dunne is dangerous with his head," he said. "With the world title fight in the offing for Scherer, it would be an unnecessary fight to take."

Oldham death, page 5

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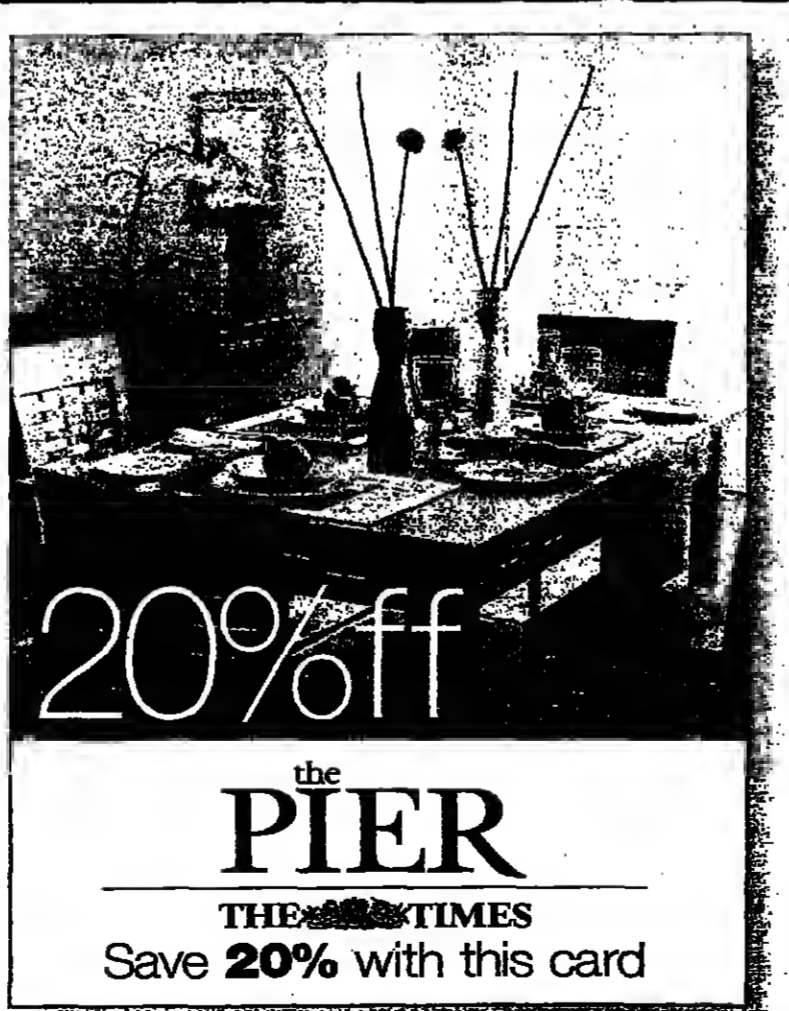
Cut the cost of shopping with your Times Pier card, inserted in today's newspaper

Today, The Times offers you 20% off your shopping bill when you spend £20 or more in a single transaction at The Pier. The offer is available from Wednesday, March 3 until Monday, April 5 at all 18 stores of The Pier nationwide. To qualify for the 20% discount, attach four differently numbered tokens to the shopping card inserted in today's paper and present them in store. If you spend £50 or more with this card you will receive a second 20% discount voucher to use at a later date. Choose from The Pier's extensive range of furniture, textiles, tableware, accessories and gifts for your home and garden. Many of the designs are handmade and exclusive to The Pier, and come in three distinct looks for the spring/summer.

Zee is drawn from the calm simplicity of oriental designs. Neutral colours and sensual textures are keynotes to this collection. Pieces include simple china, exotic candles and elegant woven beach furniture. Sorbet will add a soft, feminine touch with sheer textiles, delicate embroidery and pretty accessories that are perfect to freshen up your home this spring.

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CHANGING TIMES

هكذا من الأهل

Be it with flowers or hampers, pamper her

Family life has changed dramatically over the past century and will continue to do so into the next, but on the eve of the millennium the dream of the perfect mother continues to hover on the edges of our lives. Because the role of motherhood is such an emotive one it is easy to place it on a pedestal and find fault with mothers who are thought not to measure up.

Hardly a week goes by without mothers who are single, mothers who work, mothers who are too old and those who are too young coming in for some form of criticism. Even the celebration of Mother's Day, or Mothering Sunday, held on the fourth Sunday in Lent since the Middle Ages (this year it falls on March 14), was originally an onerous one. It was the day on which the congregations of daughter churches honoured the mother church by visiting it in processions, carrying banners. After the Reformation this solemn celebration was transferred to honour the mother of the family.

There are no banners now, but whether you celebrate Mother's Day by serving her breakfast in bed, with freshly baked croissants (frozen beforehand, then slightly heated), a new honey or jam pot as a keepsake and a spray of flowers, or whether you organise a surprise

Susan MacDonald offers advice on what to buy for Mothering Sunday

trip to Venice for the weekend — a dream city for a much-loved mum — it is the honouring of her individual worth that counts.

Magazine articles abound with ideas on what to give. If she really has a sense of humour, there is a Swatch watch with the words "Dear mum, it's time to say thank you" there on the face.

Lovely though presents are, Mother's Day is not just about giving treats. It is also the day for letting her know how much she is valued and appreciated. Giving a complete fashion or facial makeover would be great, giving a new frying pan would not — unless it is one she would really love to have.

It is important to think seriously about what to buy, and to think ahead. Trying to order flowers the afternoon before Mother's Day can be a nightmare. Phone lines are often jammed and flower shops sold out.

Flowers Direct offers flowers not always available in this country, particularly at this time of the year, and Blooms By Post specialises in orchids.

Ordering is made easier by the number of Mother's Day flowers

and presents — such as hampers — available on the Internet.

If you live in or near East London, the Sunday morning Columbia Road flower market is not only a lovely place to stroll around, but it also provides a wonderful array of plants and cut flowers at market prices, and the street is lined with shops selling ceramic pots, garden and house ornaments and antique knickknacks.

Stylish transparent Perspex bowls and dishes can be filled with chocolates, nuts or fruit for the occasion and it is easy to find brands of bathroom toiletries that come in bottles so elegant that they just cannot be thrown away. There is also some beautiful costume jewellery around — this may be something she thinks about buying but never gets round to doing.

And if you find you are stuck with buying flowers at the petrol station on Sunday morning, purchase a couple of bunches in the same colour range and make them into one large bunch. The idea of the gift, whether large or small, is to pamper and bring pleasure.

The responsibility of being a mother can weigh heavy. After all,

it is not a nine-to-five job. There is no retirement age and the nagging feeling that it could be done better never goes away.

Nor does the sense of responsibility, although the role alters dramatically as toddlers progress to adults. However much heart-strings are tugged, mothers need to adapt.

The rules of motherhood aim impressively high. Mothers should be there for their children while allowing them to live their own lives, extend a love so great that they do not feel deprived but not so encompassing that they feel smothered.

Mothers should never interfere but always be aware of what is going on, so as to offer the right advice when needed. Children should be neither shown up nor put down. Mothers should dress neither frumpishly nor garishly and not draw attention to themselves when picking children up from school.

A mother can relax and be herself once her children grow up, but she should never slack off in her role. The need for love, comfort and a shoulder to lean on continues, and becomes even more complicated when children become parents and mothers become grandmothers — another role and yet another set of rules.



Mother's Day is not just about giving gifts, but letting her know how much she is appreciated

MOTHERS DAY GIFTS



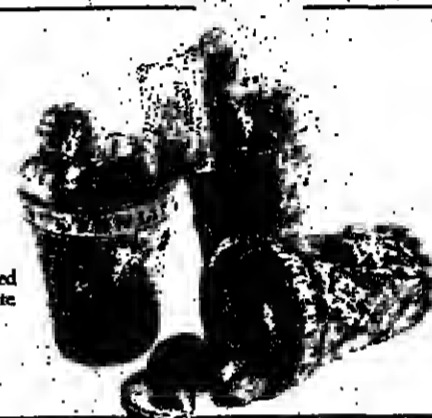
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18 Orchid stems	£17.95	018			
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12 long carnations & 10 fringed	£15.99	12/10	Unavail		
17 long & 5 spray carnations & 5 fringed	£13.99	17/5/5	Unavail		
17 long carnations & 5 fringed	£9.49	17/5	Unavail		
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Signature: _____
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Message (12 words max.): _____

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Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Mid Co	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE
100000	Alcoholic Beverages				
100000	Alcoholic Beverages				
100000	Alcoholic Beverages				
100000	Alcoholic Beverages				
100000	Alcoholic Beverages				

Mid Co	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE
100000	Banks				
100000	Banks				
100000	Banks				
100000	Banks				
100000	Banks				

Mid Co	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE
100000	Breweries, Pubs & Rest				
100000	Breweries, Pubs & Rest				
100000	Breweries, Pubs & Rest				
100000	Breweries, Pubs & Rest				
100000	Breweries, Pubs & Rest				

Mid Co	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE
100000	Building Materials				
100000	Building Materials				
100000	Building Materials				
100000	Building Materials				
100000	Building Materials				

Mid Co	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE
100000	Chemicals				
100000	Chemicals				
100000	Chemicals				
100000	Chemicals				
100000	Chemicals				

Mid Co	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE
100000	Construction				
100000	Construction				
100000	Construction				
100000	Construction				
100000	Construction				

Mid Co	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE
100000	Distributors				
100000	Distributors				
100000	Distributors				
100000	Distributors				
100000	Distributors				

Mid Co	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE
100000	Diversified Industrials				
100000	Diversified Industrials				
100000	Diversified Industrials				
100000	Diversified Industrials				
100000	Diversified Industrials				

Mid Co	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE
100000	Electricity				
100000	Electricity				
100000	Electricity				
100000	Electricity				
100000	Electricity				

Mid Co	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE
100000	Electronic & Elect				
100000	Electronic & Elect				
100000	Electronic & Elect				
100000	Electronic & Elect				
100000	Electronic & Elect				

Mid Co	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE
100000	Engineering				
100000	Engineering				
100000	Engineering				
100000	Engineering				
100000	Engineering				

Mid Co	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE
100000	Insurance				
100000	Insurance				
100000	Insurance				
100000	Insurance				
100000	Insurance				

Mid Co	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE
100000	Engineering Vehicles				
100000	Engineering Vehicles				
100000	Engineering Vehicles				
100000	Engineering Vehicles				
100000	Engineering Vehicles				

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Mid Co	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE
100000	Food Manufacturers				
100000	Food Manufacturers				
100000	Food Manufacturers				
100000	Food Manufacturers				
100000	Food Manufacturers				

Mid Co	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE
100000	Leisure & Hotels				
100000	Leisure & Hotels				
100000	Leisure & Hotels				
100000	Leisure & Hotels				
100000	Leisure & Hotels				

Mid Co	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE
100000	Healthcare				
100000	Healthcare				
100000	Healthcare				
100000	Healthcare				
100000	Healthcare				

Mid Co	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE
100000	Household Goods & Text				
100000	Household Goods & Text				
100000	Household Goods & Text				
100000	Household Goods & Text				
100000	Household Goods & Text				

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Mid Co	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE
100000	Media				
100000	Media				
100000	Media				
100000	Media				
100000	Media				

Mid Co	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE
100000	Investment Trusts				
100000	Investment Trusts				
100000	Investment Trusts				
100000	Investment Trusts				
100000	Investment Trusts				

Mid Co	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE
100000	Engineering Vehicles				
100000	Engineering Vehicles				
100000	Engineering Vehicles				
100000	Engineering Vehicles				
100000	Engineering Vehicles				

Mid Co	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE
100000	Printing & Paper				
100000	Printing & Paper				
100000	Printing & Paper				
100000	Printing & Paper				
100000	Printing & Paper				

Mid Co	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE
100000	Mining				
100000	Mining				
100000	Mining				
100000	Mining				
100000	Mining				

Mid Co	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE
100000	Property				
100000	Property				
100000	Property				
100000	Property				
100000	Property				

Mid Co	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE
100000	Telecommunications				
100000	Telecommunications				
100000	Telecommunications				
100000	Telecommunications				
100000	Telecommunications				

Mid Co	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE
100000	Transport				
100000	Transport				
100000	Transport				
100000	Transport				
100000	Transport				

Mid Co	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE
100000	Oil & Gas				
100000	Oil & Gas				
100000	Oil & Gas				
100000	Oil & Gas				
100000	Oil & Gas				

Mid Co	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE
100000	Other Financial				
100000	Other Financial				
100000	Other Financial				
100000	Other Financial				
100000	Other Financial				

Mid Co	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE
100000	Retailers, Food				
100000	Retailers, Food				
100000	Retailers, Food				
100000	Retailers, Food				
100000	Retailers, Food				

Mid Co	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE
100000	Retailers, General				
100000	Retailers, General				
100000	Retailers, General				
100000	Retailers, General				
100000	Retailers, General				

RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

TOMORROW

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

INCREASE

INSTANT A T T T T

MONTHLY INTEREST

90 DAY NOTICE

TREASURY BILLS

NEW ISSUES

FOLLOW UP ISSUES

MATURED BONDS

RA START

سكنا من الامل

Chances to move rates

ALASDAIR MURRAY

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: Buy Scottish & Southern. Calluna, Carlton, Boxmore, Enterprise, Allied London, Axon. **The Mail on Sunday:** Buy First Choice, Aggreko, Gresham Computers, Scotswood Industries. **The Sunday Telegraph:** Buy Southnews, Scotcom, Beale, Quarto Publishing, Amec, NSB Retail Systems. **The Express on Sunday:** Buy Euro Sales Finance, HC Slingby, Missy.

GKN: Full-year pre-tax profits before exceptionals on Wednesday are expected to be £440 million to £455 million, against £406 million a year earlier. The payout should grow from 14.8p to 16.3p.

COOKSON: The group has just completed a review of operations, and its proposals for restructuring and strategy are expected to be announced with final results

BURMAH CASTROL: Final results today are expected to show pre-tax profits of £235 million to £238 million, down from £279.7 million last time, after hits from currency factors and deterior-

because of big exceptional items. A pre-tax loss of £215 million to £315 million is forecast, against a £376 million profit for the corresponding period. This will be struck after exceptionals of £500

its of £700 million, against £647 million last time. Earnings per share should be up 7 per cent, from 22.1p to 23.7p. The dividend should be up 10 per cent, at 12.8p. Life profits will be up a tenth.

FRIDAY
Interests: Thomsons. Finals:
Greggs; LimeLight Group. Economic
statistics: fourth-quarter construc-
tion output.

THURSDAY

Interim: Thomsons. **Finals:** Greggs, LimeLight Group. Economic statistics: fourth-quarter construction output.

By SAIED SHAH

BUSINESS failure rates continued to rise in Britain last year, in contrast to the rest of Europe, showing that the country remains out of step with the Continent's business cycle.

Britain's distinct business cycle will be one of the key economic barriers to joining the euro, where a single interest rate assumes a broadly synchronised cycle. While European business failures fell on average by 7.8 per cent in 1998,

the number of businesses going to the wall in Britain increased last year by 6.2 per cent, according to a survey published today by Dun & Bradstreet, the business information group.

Britain was the only leading Western European economy to register a significant increase in business failures, with the annual tally increasing by more than 2,000 to a rate of about 775 businesses going bust each week.

In Germany, business failures also rose during 1998 but

only by about 400 or 1.6 per cent. France saw business failures down 14.3 per cent over 1997, while Italy fell by 18.5 per cent. Sweden was down 20 per cent and Austria enjoyed a 38 per cent fall in failure rates.

A separate Dun & Bradstreet survey, also published today, conducted among 10,000 British and continental businessmen, for the first quarter of 1999, showed that business confidence has fallen to its lowest level for five years. Some 62 per cent of business now ex-

Philip Mellor, senior business analyst at Dun & Bradstreet, said that Britain's business cycle was 12 to 18 months ahead of Europe. He said that one reason for Britain's different business cycle was the fact that the UK traded to a far greater extent beyond Europe, and so was much more vulnerable to economic conditions elsewhere in the world.

Two head field to buy Keyline from CRH

BY CARL MORTISHED

TRAVIS PERKINS and Wolsely are in the lead to buy Keyline, the £200 million builder's merchants chain, from CRH, the Irish building materials group. Bidding closed late last week; Warburg Dillon Read, which is auctioning Keyline, will shortlist potential buyers.

Keyline will be sold as one business, contrary to reports suggesting that the two favourites would carve it up between them, with Travis Perkins taking the North of England and Scotland branches and Wolsely taking the South East. Other potential buyers include Graham Group, the quoted builder's merchant that was also named as a takeover target, and venture capitalists.

Corporate activity is bubbling in the building materials sector with Scancem, the quoted Scandinavian group, attracting a queue of potential bidders. CRH is thought to be keen to buy Castle Cement, a subsidiary of Scancem which controls 25 per cent of the UK cement market, the largest stake after Blue Circle. CRH will face competition from RMC and Lafarge, the French company. Scancem's two largest shareholders, Skanska and Aker, which control 75 per cent of the group, have been forced to sell their stake by the competition authorities in Brussels, over concerns about dominance in the Nordic cement market.

New Interest Rates From 1 March 1993							
	OLD RATES		NEW RATES				
	GROSS/NET %		GROSS/NET %		NET %		
BRIDGEMANT ACCESS ACCOUNT							
£100 +	4.75		4.25		3.40		
YORKSHIRE SAVEN ACCOUNT							
£10 +	4.75		4.25		3.40		
MONTHLY INTEREST ACCOUNT							
	GROSS %	NET %	GROSS %	NET %	NET %		
£2,500 - £4,999	2.75	2.75	2.00	2.02	1.69		
£5,000 - £9,999	3.75	3.52	3.00	3.04	2.40		
£10,000 - £19,999	4.75	4.55	4.50	4.59	3.60		
£20,000 +	5.25	5.38	5.00	5.12	4.00		
90 DAY NOTICE ACCOUNT							
	ANNUAL GROSS/NET %	MONTHLY NET %	ANNUAL GROSS/NET %	MONTHLY GROSS/NET %	ANNUAL NET %		
£2,500 - £4,999	5.00	4.75	4.85	4.25	4.33	3.60	3.40
£5,000 - £9,999	5.50	5.25	5.38	5.00	4.75	4.00	3.80
£10,000 - £19,999	6.00	5.75	5.90	5.50	5.38	4.40	4.20
£20,000 +	6.50	6.25	6.43	5.75	5.50	5.64	4.60
TEMPERLEY'S GROSS ACCOUNT							
	GROSS/NET %		GROSS/NET %		NET %		
£100 - £2,499	0.00		0.00		0.00		
£2,500 - £4,999	1.25		0.50		0.49		
£5,000 - £9,999	2.00		1.00		0.88		
£10,000 - £19,999	3.50		2.50		2.00		
£20,000 +	4.00		3.50		2.80		
NEW TESSA							
	GROSS/NET %		GROSS/NET %		NET %		
£100 +	7.00		6.50				
FOLLOW-UP TESSA							
	GROSS/NET %		GROSS/NET %		NET %		
£10,000 +	7.00		6.50				
YORKSHIRE SAVEN 24H, 1MS <small>(Interest paid by 15.12.92)</small>							
	GROSS/NET %		GROSS/NET %		NET %		
£100 +	6.55		6.05				
YORKSHIRE SAVEN PLUS							
£500 +	5.00		4.50		2.60		
SEA STAFF ACCOUNT							
	GROSS/NET %		GROSS/NET %		NET %		
	7.00		6.00		4.80		

[illegible]

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WAKING NED

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This week *The Times* has teamed up with 20th Century Fox to offer readers the chance to see an exclusive preview screening of *Waking Ned* on Sunday morning, March 14 (exact times will be on the ticket). The film, a raucous modern fairy tale, was a surprise hit at the Cannes Film Festival and won rave reviews when it opened in America at Christmas. Inspired by a true story, *Waking Ned* follows the comic exploits of two friends as they stumble into a lottery scam of hilarious proportions.

For a FREE ticket, which admits two, collect five differently numbered tokens, attach them to the completed voucher right and present them at the cinema box office of your choice, from those listed below. Tickets will be issued on a first-come first-served basis between March 4 and 13. *Walking Ned* opens nationwide on March 19.

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ODEON CINEMAS Birmingham; Blackpool; Bournemouth; Brighton; Bromborough;
Chelmsford; Cheltenham; Colchester; Hazel Hemyestead;
Holloway; Hull; Kensington, London W8; Kettering; Leeds;
Leicester; Lincoln; Liverpool (Swirch); Maldenstone; Manchester;
Nottingham; Romford; Sheffield; Southend; Stoke on Trent;
Stratford, London SW16; Taunton; Worcester; Tunbridge Wells;
Coventry; Plymouth **SEITANIUM** Aberdeen; Edinburgh; Glasgow
Quay; Kilmarock **WALIS** Bridgend; Cardiff C&P; Wrexham

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Surname _____

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biochemical, immunological and clinical data. The authors conclude that the results of this study support the hypothesis that the pathogenesis of dengue fever involves a complex interplay of viral, host and environmental factors.

CHANGING TIMES

THE FACTS

Market cap: £20.53 billion.
Turnover: in 1998 including associates: £8.3 billion.
Pre-tax profits: £2.18 billion.
Employees: 46,550.
Business: Cable & Wireless is an international telecommunications and multimedia operator providing services in more than 50 countries including the UK, the US, Hong Kong, Australia and Japan.

THE BOARD

Sir Ralph Robins, 65, chairman after being a non-executive since 1994. He is also chairman of Rolls-Royce and the Defence Industries Council.

Graham Wallace, 50, chief executive, ran Cable & Wireless Communications and is a former finance director of Granada.

Rod Olsen, 53, is executive director for Asia Pacific. He joined Cable & Wireless in 1976. He plans to leave the company soon.

Robert Lewin, 46, has been executive director, finance, since 1997 and joined Cable & Wireless from the WPP Group where he had been group finance director since 1996.

Liam Chung, 50, chief executive of Hongkong Telecom, used to be deputy managing director of Cathay Pacific Airways.

Stephen Pettit, 46, executive director, global business, joined Cable & Wireless in 1994 as European managing director from BP. He is also chairman of One-2-One.

The non-executives are: **Winifred Bischoff**, 56, chairman of Schroders; **Janet Morgan**, 52, writer and businesswoman; **David Nash**, 58, former chairman of Grand Metropolitan's food business; and **Raymond Seitz**, 57, vice-chairman of Lehman Brothers and a former US Ambassador to the UK.

This week Graham Wallace is off to Hong Kong. Although in his career he has worked in the US for a couple of years the visit will mark the start of his new international career, as chief executive of Cable & Wireless, the most global of all the world-beating telecommunications markets.

Less than a week into the new job, earned by bashing together Mercury Communications and three cable companies, Bell Cablemedia, Videotron and Nynex CableComms, Wallace says he has "very clear ideas" about what to do with the company founded 125 years ago to take the electronic telegraph around the world.

He is, however, old-fashioned enough to want to share them with his board and staff first. What is absolutely clear is where the emphasis will be placed and Wallace's role in it.

"This whole area of the Internet and data and what you can do through networks is an area where there is huge potential," he says.

"I think the way the price/value cost equation is coming down we are just scratching the surface," adds Wallace, who spent the central part of his career at Granada Group, first as finance director and then running first the rental division and then restaurants services.

His management expertise therefore encompasses the financial disciplines, the service sector and the importance of brands all topped up by more than a dash of the latest communications technology acquired at CWC, the cable group.

Wallace, a gravelly voiced, dogged, home-spun executive, in many ways the complete antithesis of his immediate predecessor, Dick Brown, a flamboyant American.

With luck Wallace's appointment will end nine years of management instability at C&W stretching back nine years to the days when Lord Young of Grafham was chairman. The comings and goings have been such that Rod Olsen, who has run the Asia Pacific businesses, and is soon to leave the company to start a new life in Australia, has had to fill in as acting chief executive.

Even though it was always



Graham Wallace, left, starts a new international career as he takes the reins at Cable & Wireless. In some ways he is the antithesis to his predecessor, Dick Brown, right, the flamboyant American. One difficult issue for Wallace, who sees mobile phones as part of C&W's future, is the ownership of One-2-One

likely that Dick Brown would merely be passing through it is difficult to overstate Brown's contribution. His plan to raise \$1 billion by tidying up a mish-mash of minority interests was a useful start. But it is the \$1 billion deal to buy the Internet backbone business of MCI that has helped to create much of the potential that Wallace has inherited.

Today SG Securities will publish a study of Cable & Wireless suggesting that the value of the Internet acquisition needs to be increased by more than £2 billion because of the ferment in Internet stocks.

The plan to spend another \$1 billion over five years building a fully integrated voice, Internet and data super-network linking more than 40 European cities is another part of the jigsaw.

Yet to some extent Brown did the "easy" bits and Wallace faces the much tougher task of implementing a vision and dealing with a re-

maining knotty series of structural issues that the City, at least, believes will not go away if C&W is to make the full transition from a federation of fairly discrete entities into a fully integrated global player.

The first tricky problem is C&W's 54 per cent stake in Hongkong Telecom. The London-based group has successfully negotiated both the takeover in 1997 and the opening-up of the market to competition but hopes of an early entry into mainland China seem likely to be frustrated for some time.

With analysts predicting falling revenues in Hong Kong C&W will have to decide whether to play what could be a very long game in China. Dresner Kleinwort Benson suggests that it might be sensible to de-couple Hongkong Telecom from the rest of Cable & Wireless so that investors do not have to invest in the future of telecommunications in China whether they like it or not.

Another difficult issue is the ownership of One-2-One, the mobile phone company in the UK, a 50-50 joint venture with Media One, the US cable company.

There is a bit of an impasse because both sides would probably like to be a 100 per cent owner, but the likely outcome is a flotation of a minority stake in One-2-One. Wallace sees mobile as part of the group's future as part of the range of delivery mechanisms to bring services to customers and says the relationship is working well. "I wouldn't see it as a pressing problem because it works," says Wallace.

As the former head of CWC Graham Wallace may find him-

self having to take some urgent decisions about Telewest, one of the other big three cable operators. There is a widespread belief that major Telewest shareholder TCI/AT&T is prepared to sell its stake, and Wallace may have to decide to bid or see the company go to the other major cable player, NTL.

Analysts would also like to see some of the potential US Internet value crystallised with the float of a minority stake in the US Internet business.

Whichever way Wallace jumps on this and other issues what is clear is that the venerable company is once again in the midst of reinventing itself and can justify claim that its reputation as a slumbering giant has already been transformed.

There are global banks and organisations like Andersen Consulting who are giving us business that three years ago we would not have got because they believe we can provide the packaging that they want

around the world," says Olsen. At CWC Wallace spent an enormous amount of money and effort creating a Cable & Wireless Communications brand in the public mind. At first he was worried that the words "cable" and "wireless" were old-fashioned. His children put him right. Cable was associated in their minds with cable television and wireless with trendy cordless communications. So the name Cable & Wireless stays.

It is not known yet how much he will be paid but Dick Brown's 1998 pay would have exceeded £4 million although most was performance-related. According to Crisp Consulting this is double the amount expected for someone of his experience in a FTSE company, although the telecommunications sector has special features. The "impressive" non-executives are paid £30,000 a year.

Cable & Wireless also scores well on ethical expression. According to Integrity Works, which has acted as advisers to C&W, it has a clear ethics policy which has been communicated to staff through designated staff in each business area. As he starts to explore his new domain Graham Wallace has set himself the task of turning C&W into one of the world's top telecoms players. In five years. He has a long way to go. In the past year C&W has underperformed the telecoms sector in the FTSE 100 by 63 per cent. Its progress will attract the closest scrutiny and if the potential does not turn into reality 125 years of independence could easily come to an end.

RAYMOND SNOODY

French efforts to rescue its figures rebound

Ethical expression.....7/10
Fast-Cat quotient.....7/10
Financial record.....6/10
Share performance.....5/10
Attitude to staff.....8/10
Strength of Brand.....7/10
Innovation.....8/10
Annual report.....6/10
City star rating.....6/10
Future Prospects.....9/10
Total.....69/100
Ethical expression is evaluated by Integrity Works. The fastest quotient, in which best broadband pay practices scores highest, is provided by Virgin Consulting.

1998/99										1998/99										1998/99										1998/99									
High	Low	Mid Cap (million)	Price	Div	Yld	P/E	High	Low	Mid Cap (million)	Price	Div	Yld	P/E	High	Low	Mid Cap (million)	Price	Div	Yld	P/E	High	Low	Mid Cap (million)	Price	Div	Yld	P/E	High	Low	Mid Cap (million)	Price	Div	Yld	P/E					
139	139	2.40	10	0.4	1.2	11.6	400	170	15.10	240	4	1.1	11.6	46	17	3.94	20	0.4	1.2	11.6	1	0.4	1.08	108	108	1.08	1.08	139	139	2.40	10	0.4	1.2	11.6					
139	139	2.40	10	0.4	1.2	11.6	400	170	15.10	240	4	1.1	11.6	46	17	3.94	20	0.4	1.2	11.6	1	0.4	1.08	108	108	1.08	1.08	139	139	2.40	10	0.4	1.2	11.6					
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Like Hamlet without the Prince

This week's meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is more than usually significant. I do not refer to the likely outcome for interest rates, (which I think will be a further cut of 0.25 percentage point), but rather to something of wider import. For it will be the first meeting since the publication of the National Changeover Plan, which lays out a path for Britain's preparations for the euro.

Not that the plan said a great deal about monetary policy or the exchange rate, or indeed the MPC. In fact, it said nothing at all about these weighty matters. Funny that. There was a lot about tills and IT requirements but nothing about managing the monetary system itself.

Even so, last week we gained a fascinating insight from a different source. The Governor of the Bank of England was asked about what plans the Bank had for a switch of monetary regime to prepare us for the euro. None, came the answer. Nor had he even talked about the issue with the Chancellor. The MPC's "marching orders" were quite clear — to set interest rates at whatever level was necessary to hit the inflation target.

Nothing wrong with that, you might say. But how is this

to be squared with preparing Britain for the euro? If interest rates are to be set to target inflation, then they cannot simultaneously be used to achieve convergence with euroland at an acceptable exchange rate. Of course, maintaining inflation at 2.5 per cent should help to impart some stability to the economy and reduce the likely range of differences with euroland. So, perhaps, if the MPC carries on targeting 2.5 per cent, everything will be all right — fingers crossed.

But the European average inflation rate is 0.8 per cent, and looking to be heading lower still, compared with our corresponding figure of 1.6 per cent. Meanwhile, our interest rates are nearly twice the euro level. In other words, there is a fair bit of converging yet to be done.

One option if monetary policy were to play its role in bringing about convergence, would be to raise interest rates, or at least to stop cutting them, so as to force inflation down to the point where we could comfortably live with 3 per cent interest rates. If the Government were pretty confident that our economies were converging anyway, another option might be to move interest rates gradually towards the euro level. But, apparently, we are going



to target 2.5 per cent inflation and hope for the best.

What about the exchange rate itself? At the moment, although the Bank takes the level of sterling into account when setting rates to hit the inflation target, it has no target level for sterling itself, and the pound can and does vary widely. If the Government were to try to establish sterling at some reasonable level before entry and then to keep it there, it would not be able to maintain the existing monetary policy regime.

There could be some sort of hybrid encompassing both an exchange rate and inflation target, but the clearest regime would be one where interest rates were managed so as to keep sterling within a certain range against the euro. If the pound threatened to move outside, then rates would have to

be changed to whatever level was necessary to keep the pound there, regardless of the level of British inflation, and regardless of the consequences for the economy. Does this ring a bell? Perhaps if I mentioned the word "scintilla" it would give you a clue.

This policy involves precisely the problem that Britain experienced in the ERM. Indeed, the Maasticht Treaty lays down an exchange rate criterion for EMU membership, namely that a candidate currency should have stayed within the bands of the ERM for at least two years without undue strain. For understandable reasons, the British Government rejects this criterion. But it is there for a reason, namely to ensure that the currency alignment which it is proposed to hold "forever" should be workable. That is perfectly reasonable. It is a bit like the benefits of a courtship, as opposed to getting married on the first date.

Moreover, in the case of most of the euro members, their relationship has stronger and deeper roots even than that. France, for instance, has maintained an effectively fixed exchange rate against the mark for more than ten years.

This is not Britain's position. Since the exit from the

ERM, the pound has traded at levels between 2.16 against the mark and 3.11. Where should it be? It is difficult to be sure. But you would think, wouldn't you, that the Government which proposes to fix it for all time would present us with some sort of mechanism for judging the appropriate rate — not to mention some strategy for getting and keeping it there before the final deed is done?

So you should relish the MPC's decision this Wednesday. Whatever the decision, it will have been taken in regard to an objective set by the British Government in pursuit of British interests.

Moreover, in taking its decision, the MPC will be fully accountable in Parliament. Indeed, the way that it emerged that there was apparently no transition planning on monetary policy was richly ironic. It emerged as the Governor was being questioned by the Treasury Select Committee of the House of Commons.

Any member of the public could go to that meeting and hear the MPC obliged to account for its actions by democratically elected representatives of the people. That is precisely what cannot happen with the ECB — even in Frankfurt, Strasbourg or Brussels.

Prospectors beat a path to Africa's new streets of gold

Cash-strapped producers are setting sights on liberalised Tanzania to cut their costs, writes Rachel Bridge

For almost 40 years Tanzania has been virtually a closed book to the world's international goldmining giants, thanks to a socialist regime, sweeping nationalisation and the shunning of foreign investors. The tiny amounts of gold ore that did get taken out of the ground were dug out by small-scale artisanal miners scratching out a living in remote corners of the Tanzanian scrub.

But the stage has been set for a dramatic revival of the mining sector as Tanzania finally opens its doors to business to foreign investors following a series of economic reforms.

In the past year alone the Tanzanian Government has introduced a number of key changes for foreign gold producers, including a new mining code, a fiscal package specifically for mining that does not require companies to give the State a stake in the venture — formerly it took a mandatory 10 per cent stake — and a new investment code which exempts foreign firms from import duty on equipment and sales tax and allows profits to be repatriated.

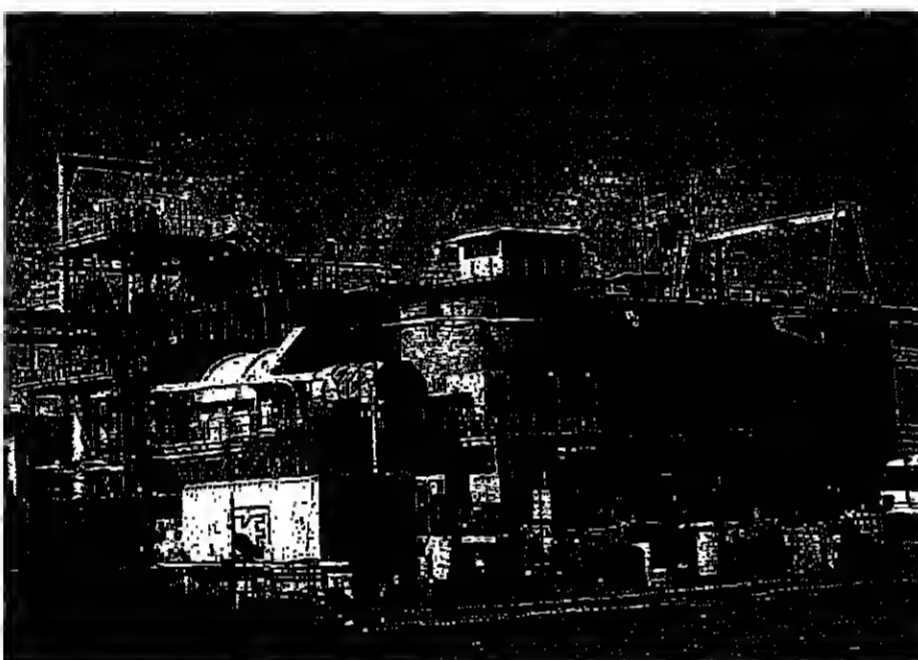
The surge of interest in Tan-

zania has also been prompted by the goldmining industry's increasingly desperate search for ever-lower cost production in an effort to withstand the effects of the historically weak gold price.

According to the World Gold Analyst, the weighted average cash cost of extracting gold fell by 20 per cent from \$264 per oz (£165) in June 1996 to just \$210 per oz in 1998 as companies strived to remain profitable while the gold price dropped to as low as \$275.

Andrew Howard, gold mining analyst at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, said: "There is a big drive for low-cost production. Any mining company will tell you that their emphasis is on having low-cost assets. The big question is whether you bring on lower-cost mines than everyone else — and that is obviously what they think they can do in Tanzania."

Last month the tiny village of Lusu in the northwest corner of Tanzania played host to the country's President, Benjamin Mkapa, and several high-ranking local dignitaries to celebrate the opening of the \$48 million Golden Pride



Golden Pride, Tanzania's first big goldmine since independence in 1961, opened last month.

mine, Tanzania's first large-scale goldmine since independence in 1961.

Greeted by local dancers and musicians in brightly dressed costumes, the opening of the mine, a 50-50 joint venture project between Ashanti Goldfields and Resolute, the Australian mining company, is the first of what is expected to be a raft of foreign investment-backed goldmining projects starting up in Tanzania.

Following hard on the heels of the Golden Pride project are three other big foreign-owned goldmining ventures set to begin production next year: Ashanti's huge proposed mine at Geita; the Bulyankulu mine in Kahama District being developed by the Canadian mining company Sutton Resources; and the Australian mining company Afrika Mashariki Gold Mines' 130,000-ounce gold project in Tarime District. Other overseas goldminers are also running a slide rule over the place — feasibility studies are under way by South Africa's Anglo-American Corporation, while Placer Dome, Maiden Gold, Ormiston Mining, Universal Gold and Kimberly Resources are all spending significant amounts on exploration.

The figures tell the story — while total worldwide gold exploration expenditure dropped by 40 per cent from \$2.61 billion in 1997 to just \$1.56 billion in 1998, mineral exploration ex-

penditure in Tanzania has steadily climbed the other way, jumping from \$6 million in 1992 to more than \$80 million in 1997 and expected to reach \$200 million by 2000.

Peter Cowley, managing director of Exploration at Ashanti, says the combination of good mineral prospects and government reforms have turned Tanzania into an extremely attractive destination. He said: "At present in terms of exploration for gold, Tanzania is the number one country in Africa. The growth in African gold production is coming from Tanzania and if anybody wants to explore in Africa they will be trying to get a position there. A big catalyst is that the Government has improved the physical conditions to encourage foreign investment in the mining sector. And geologically Tanzania is favourable because the rocks are very similar to the big provinces of Western Australia."

Ashanti, based in Ghana, moved into Tanzania in 1996 with the purchase of the Geita property from Cluff Resources. And last year it sharply expanded the size of the proposed mine there with the acquisition of Samus Gold, whose Kukuuma licences were adjacent to the Geita site, and so have enabled Ashanti to develop the two properties as a single giant mine, scheduled to produce 400,000 ounces a year.

Mr Cowley said the Geita mine would operate on a cash

cost of production of just \$170 an ounce compared with Ashanti's average cash costs of production of \$218. The Golden Pride project is expected to produce an annual average of 180,000 ounces of gold at a cash cost of less than \$200 per ounce. Mr Cowley said: "In today's market you have to have low cash costs. We are all lowering our costs just to keep up with each other. If you can't get your costs down then you won't survive."

Gerard Holden, global head of mining and metals at Barclays Capital, the lead syndicate banker on the Golden Pride project, said that Tanzania has three factors working in its favour: outside South Africa it is one of the top three countries in Africa in terms of gold mineralisation prospectivity; it has seen big changes in its mining law and it has not been affected by huge amounts of conflict. He explained: "You start to see a fairly rosy picture. The whole goldmining sector in Tanzania could significantly change the country's economic performance. Within five years they could be producing a million and a half ounces of gold a year, which would then quite significantly on the map."

Tanzania has a long history of goldmining dating back to the turn of the first millennium when Arabs settled on the east coast to purchase the gold produced by African workers. The first commercial mines were developed in 1909 by German colonists after the discovery of gold in the Lake Victoria area, and by 1939 gold was one of Tanzania's biggest exports.

The late 1960s and 1970s, however, saw a steep decline in production, and the industry virtually ground to a halt, with just 84 ounces sold in 1975 as the country pursued a policy of *ujamaa* — African socialism — under Julius Nyerere, Tanzania's first President. The Tanzanian Government confidently expects a gold boom in the next two years. Opening the Golden Pride mine, President Mkapa said: "There is a boom in mineral exploration in the country for gold, base metals, diamonds and uranium, despite the current low prices in the market. That speaks a lot for the quality and abundance of our resources."

Trouble in the East

Shanghai Vice Betrayal

Channel 4, 9pm

The second film in Phil Agland's seven-part series about contemporary China, continues the main storyline: the police attempt, via an informer, to set up a drugs bust to catch a Muslim dealer from Canton. A new theme added tonight is the rehearsal by the Children's School of the Shanghai Opera for a production of a traditional Chinese opera about betrayal. This almost too neat counterpoint (after all, the drug-dealer and his minions hardly equate with the wronged wife in the opera) makes it a less satisfactory film than the first, shown last night, but it is well mesmerising and compelling. One might find it impossible to imagine that a Chinese film-maker would be allowed the apparently complete access to British police operations and the prison service which Agland has enjoyed from the authorities in Shanghai.

Tribe

BBC2, 11.15pm

The producer, Gerard Barry, describes this documentary series about groupings among Britain's under-25s as "not another patronising, late and embarrassing TV attempt to get to the kids". God forbid we should pass judgment. Given adolescents' tendency to exaggerate to any adult willing to let them brag about their behaviour, one might hope that these sequences of these short films which show criminal or merely antisocial behaviour are fantasy rather than fact. But under-age drinking, drug-taking, vandalism, dangerous driving and knifecrimes are facts of life. There are also less disruptive if no less contentious subjects, including "tanning" in Northern Ireland.

To the Ends of the Earth: The Battle for Titanic

Channel 4, 8pm

John Peel narrates this quite surprising account (given our exposure to the subject) of how the wreck of the RMS Titanic was discovered, fought over and exploited. It is a tale of deceit and



A heroin dealer is arrested in the second episode of Shanghai Vice (Channel 4, 9pm)

spin-doctoring (at every level from the US Navy down to individuals), litigation, and cash-banded bribery which leaves virtually all of those involved under suspicion of, at best, moral and ethical ambiguity. The most astonishing aspect may be that, with the wreck still virtually unprotected, those who have made the most capital out of a mass grave and the scene of a maritime disaster show no sign of recognising that this is the case.

Birds, Marriages and Deaths

BBC2, 9pm

If the first of Tony Grounds's three-part series was slightly over the top, part two is so far over that it is a case of back on the other side. The three lifelong friends (Ray Winstone, Phil Davis and Mark Strong) have apparently survived the problems raised by their "stag" outing, and Strong's new wife has had a healthy baby. Winstone, richer and brasher than ever, gives the others jobs with his own company. Davis discovers that his idolised wife (Tessa Peake-Jones) fell pregnant while at school, and Winstone's schoolgirl daughter is arrested for trespassing with Davis's dropout son. Then an even nastier accident occurs. Whatever next? Tony Patrick

Silent Sentences

Radio 4, 8pm

This is the second in an excellent series by Peter White about what happens to families when one of their number is put in prison. Tonight's programme meets people whose sons or daughters have been jailed, and as with last week's opener about the effect on a marriage of one partner being jailed, we hear from truly brave people, heroic in the sense that they have suffered heartbreak without imposing their pain on others. Stan Gregory and his wife Doreen, whose daughter Sandra was convicted of heroin trafficking in Thailand, describe how they had to stop having any contact with the people around them, not through any lack of support but because Doreen simply could not take the sympathy. Peter Barnard

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Zoe Ball 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00pm Jo Whitey 2.00pm Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Chris Moyles 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00pm Chris Peck 8.00 Laura Lynn 8.45 Newsbeat 9.00pm The Virgin Chat Show 9.50 Sports Round-Up 10.00pm Newsdesk 10.30pm Today 10.45 The Morning World 11.00pm Newsdesk 11.30pm Pick of the Week 12.00pm News 12.05pm Outlook 12.45 Sports Round-Up 1.00pm Newsweek 2.00pm News 2.05pm Health Matters 2.30pm Markham 3.00pm World 3.05pm Sports Round-Up 3.15pm Record News 3.30pm Comedy Club 3.45pm The Virgin Chat Show 4.00pm The Virgin Chat Show 4.30pm Europe Today 4.30pm World Business 4.45pm Sports Round-Up 5.00pm World News 5.15pm Today 5.30pm World 5.45pm World News 5.55pm Health Matters 6.00pm Newsweek 6.30pm Britain Today 6.30pm Markham 6.45pm Today 6.50pm World 7.00pm World News 7.05pm Health Matters 7.30pm Comedy Club 7.45pm The Virgin Chat Show 8.00pm The Virgin Chat Show 8.30pm World News 8.45pm World Business 8.55pm Britain Today 9.00pm Markham 9.10pm World News 9.15pm Sports 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Quick fix supplied by Bodge and Scarper

Bewailing the overabundance of fly-on-the-wall documentaries has become as quixotic as complaining about bull-bait or middle-aged men wearing baseball caps.

We had two new examples this weekend: *The Builders* (BBC1, Friday) and *Shanghai Vice* (Channel 4, Sunday). Both, in their way, broke new ground. *Shanghai Vice* because of the candour of the footage which Phil Agland has obtained from one of the most secretive societies in the world.

We followed the life of Miss Tang, a young medic who has moved to this thriving city from the country. Shanghai was opened to the world three years ago. The colonial waterfront evokes Liverpool, the skyscrapers behind evoke Hong Kong. Tang goes everywhere with her landlady Mrs Feng, a Chaucerian widow, 65 and still chasing a good sex life.

Most of the material, however,

features the Shanghai police, struggling to dam up a flood of heroin, brought into the city by impenetrable cliques of disaffected Muslims from the northwest provinces. Their methods are direct and brutal, and they don't care who knows it, apparently. They have not yet learnt how to manipulate television and are consequently fascinating to watch.

My only regret is that, because Shanghai people speak very fast, and because it is harder to pick up signals from their unfamiliar intonation and gestures, you rely entirely on the subtitles which fly by so quickly that you hardly have time to ponder the images.

The Builders was groundbreaking in two senses. First literally — two of the outfits concerned dug up plots of grass to lay foundations for a new bungalow and a rear extension. More importantly, however, the programme has raised the docusoap to a previously

unexplored level of pointlessness. Overworked, overextended and overwrought as it is, this genre can still offer some perverse pleasure. There will be a character so dismal, an egomaniac so irritating, that their mundane tergiversations take on a distasteful fascination. They offer the viewer a few drops of a drug as insidiously addictive as nicotine, cocaine or kryptonite — a potent nudge, namely a vague sense of superiority.

I like me, you see Jim, the annoying Grema Green "blackmail" on *Low Town*, as a bit of a prat, it follows that you, as a viewer, feel a bit of a prat by comparison. That feeling, though psychologically flattering, is undoubtedly "moreish". Take it away and there is not much left.

The Builders sets out to redress the bad reputation of Britain's builders by presenting us with a range of hard-working, chirpy,



slightly roughish but loveable chaps from around the country. They are like characters from an updated Ealing comedy, always ready with their cheeky smiles and, above the back of their jeans, their smiley cheeks, always chasing another cuppa, darlin'.

They are, we are led to believe, friendly, honest and competent. The main point of interest seems to be that they evoke chortling lust in

the women they work for. Otherwise we are just watching a bunch of guys drinking tea, laying concrete, grumbling that the free croissants are cold, knocking a wall down, building a wall up and drinking more tea.

But the bad reputation of the building trade didn't just arrive in the post. Like a misdirected parking fine, the nation's builders have made strenuous efforts over many decades to earn it, and it should not be thrown away in this cavalier fashion.

I now have a wonderful builder. I am relieved to say, but only after years of suffering the catalogue of boding, procrastination, false estimates, flanneling, lack of consideration and downright deceit that most punters experience from most builders most of the time.

To add insult to injury, the perpetrators are usually cocky know-alls who genuinely believe that their unreliability, sharp-practice and

inability to cut anything to size represents the height of craftsmanship. If we must have a docusoap on this national disgrace, why can't we follow a bunch of these Jack-the-jads, patting themselves on the back as they mess up innocent people's homes.

The horrible behaviour of a cowboy builder who once "converted" the house next door to our old home caused me to have elaborate fantasies involving his torture, mutilation and death. Many builders would make particularly gratifying victims for a series like *Murder Most Horrid* (BBC2, Friday).

Because the stories are "one-offs" the quality is variable, but that is also the show's strength. You never know quite what to expect, although you can usually rely on a deliciously observed bit of character acting from Dawn French. It is not just that she has

such a gift for faintly absurd mannerisms, but that she enacts them with such relish.

Frozen, last week's opener about two greedy prewar spinsters with a huge early model freezer, was a delightful bit of pastiche. The script consisted almost entirely of silly double entendres of the type found on old seaside postcards, but inventive and daff enough to avoid *Carry On* crassness.

This week's *Going Solo* with French and Sarah Lancashire as round-the-world yachswomen, wasn't quite as chortlesome. There was a nifty bit of plotting, with those Agatha Christie reprises where the same scenes are shown twice from different characters' points of view, but the twist was still predictable. French turned in another virtuoso performance as a fantastically irritating sailing companion, and the show went some way to make good the damage left by *The Builders*.

REVIEW

Paul Hoggart

- BBC1**
- 6.00am Breakfast (178352)
 - 7.00am BBC Breakfast News (178352)
 - 9.00am News (178352)
 - 9.45am The News (178352)
 - 10.55am News (178352)
 - 11.00am Change That (347642)
 - 11.25am Can't Cook, Won't Cook (1346401)
 - 11.55am News (178352)
 - 12.00pm Call My Bluff (85420)
 - 12.30pm Wipeout (4807197)
 - 12.55pm The Weather Show (153041197)
 - 1.00pm One O'Clock News (153041197)
 - 1.30pm Regional News: Weather (59893772)
 - 1.40pm Neighbours (133003130)
 - 2.00pm Ironside (15224975)
 - 2.55pm Through the Keyhole (153041197)
 - 3.25pm Children's BBC: Playdays (8800772)
 - 3.45pm The Littlest Post Shop (5416823)
 - 3.55pm Bodge and Badger (9145555)
 - 4.10pm Pooki Dragon Adventures (6397448)
 - 4.20pm Anthony and the Squirrels (4103401)
 - 5.10pm Blue Peter (9803898)
 - 5.35pm Neighbours (153041197)
 - 6.00pm Six O'Clock News (153041197)
 - 6.30pm Regional News Magazine (59)
 - 7.00pm This is Your Life (133041197)
 - 7.30pm Watchdog Healthcheck (153041197)
 - 8.00pm EastEnders: Simon is suicidal (153041197)
 - 8.30pm Mrs. Merton and Malcolm: Plucky Malcolm does to teach the local big head a lesson (216) (153041197)
 - 9.00pm Nine O'Clock News: Regional News (153041197)
 - 9.30pm Animal Police (153041197)
 - 10.00pm Panorama: A report on the British gynaecologist Dr Richard Neale, who came back to work in this country after being struck off the Canadian medical register for incompetence (153041197)

- BBC2**
- 7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show: Pingu (7835431), 7.05am Teletubbies (59893772), 7.30am Shogun (28284), 7.50am Blue Peter (3805604), 8.20am Taz-Mania (5493994), 8.40am Polka Dot Shorts (1441642), 8.50am Romulus the Reindeer (1447326), 9.00am Space Ark (7086452), 9.10am Short Circuit (4781571), 9.30am Wot's On? (8180823), 9.45am Storytime (8181781), 10.00am Teletubbies (59893772), 10.30am Words and Pictures (9620352), 10.45am Cats' Eyes (9625807), 11.00am Look and Read (3646352), 11.20am Zig Zag (3646352), 11.40am Landmarks (9674353), 12.00pm Job Bank (4407401), 12.10pm History File (5679130), 12.30pm Wot's On? (8181781), 1.00pm Romulus the Reindeer (1447326), 1.10pm The House Detectives (14108468), 1.40pm Hart-Davis on History (35024623), 2.10pm Aash with Colour (56884772), 2.40pm News: Regional News (13639062), 2.45pm Match of the Day (14015536), 3.25pm News: Regional News (14158888), 3.30pm The Village (19065420), 3.55pm Kaye Open Relationships (9820739), 4.25pm Ready, Steady, Cook (153041197), 4.55pm Esther (153041197), 5.30pm Today's the Day (153041197), 6.00pm Hit, Miss or Maybe (153041197), 6.15pm The Simpsons: Lisa and Bart write a script for a TV show (1777004), 6.40pm Space 1999 (153041197), 7.00pm Rough Guide to the World: Edith Bowman and Dr. Dorian explore the city of Cairo (216) (153041197), 8.00pm Raising the Roof: Report on how legalisation could have the rights taken away from them should someone buy their home's freehold (616) (153041197), 8.30pm Food and Drink (153041197), 9.00pm CHOICE: Births, Marriages and Deaths: Graham slumbers across a secret which has been kept from him for 25 years (216) (153041197), 9.55pm Five Go Mad in the Kitchen (808448), 10.00pm If I Ruled the World With Pauline McLynn and Hugh Dennis (84791), 10.30pm Newsnight (153041197)

- HTV**
- 5.30am TIT Morning News (14642)
 - 6.00am GMTV (518917)
 - 9.25am TIT Morning News (14642)
 - 10.30am TIT Morning News (14642)
 - 12.15pm TIT News and Weather (1413062)
 - 12.30pm TIT Lunchtime News: Weather (1413062)
 - 1.00pm Shortland Street (28284)
 - 1.30pm Home and Away (153041197)
 - 2.00pm The Jerry Springer Show (153041197)
 - 2.45pm Dale's Supermarket Sweep (153041197)
 - 3.15pm TIT News Headlines (14156130)
 - 3.20pm TIT News (14156130)
 - 3.25pm CITY: Mopopolis: The Shop (4176994), 3.35pm Kipper (9136807), 3.45pm The Adventures of Captain Pugwash (9149371), 4.00pm Oogy and the Cockroaches (5872130), 4.20pm It's a Mystery (5988178), 4.45pm Sabrina the Teenage Witch (3468555)
 - 5.10pm WEST: Getaways (153041197)
 - 5.15pm TIT News: Money Spinners (153041197)
 - 5.40pm TIT Early Evening News: Weather (1413062)
 - 6.00pm Home and Away (153041197)
 - 6.25pm WEST: HTV Weather (882771)
 - 6.55pm WEST: Wales Tonight: Weather (153041197)
 - 8.30pm The West Tonight (153041197)
 - 8.55pm HTV Crimestoppers (817081)
 - 9.00pm Wish You Were Here: Melinda Messenger visits Greece, Jamie Theakston goes skiing in the Swiss Alps and Cleo Picozzi explores Naples, while Anthony Turner, through the Himalayan foothills (153041197)
 - 9.30pm Coronation Street (153041197)
 - 9.55pm Undercover Customs (153041197)
 - 10.30pm Carol Vorderman's Better Homes: Carol and her team of handymen take their tools to Port Sunlight on the Wirral (910) (153041197)

- CENTRAL**
- As HTV West except:
 - 12.20-12.30pm Central News (7651130)
 - 1.00pm High Road (28284)
 - 1.30pm The Jerry Springer Show (153041197)
 - 2.15-2.45pm Home and Away (208994)
 - 3.20-3.25pm Central News (186371)
 - 5.10-5.40pm Shortland Street (7268265)
 - 6.25-7.00pm Central News: Weather (218178)
 - 10.30-10.40pm Central News (28284)
 - 11.40pm The Big Match (71977)
 - 12.10-12.40pm Short Story Cinema (3047043)
 - 4.35pm Central Jobfinder '99 (2614802)
 - 5.20-5.30pm Asian Eye (3708314)

- WESTCOUNTRY**
- As HTV West except:
 - 12.15pm-12.27pm Westcountry News: Weather (1413062)
 - 12.27-12.30pm Illuminations (7676491), 1.00pm High Road (28284), 1.30pm The Jerry Springer Show (153041197), 2.15-2.45pm Home and Away (153041197), 3.20-3.25pm Westcountry News: Weather (153041197), 5.05pm Birthdays People (153041197), 5.10-5.40pm Home and Away (153041197), 6.00-6.07pm Westcountry Live (153041197), 10.30-10.40pm Westcountry News: Weather (153041197), 11.40-12.40pm The Wrights (759772)

- CHANNEL 4**
- 5.55am Sesame Street (4615994)
 - 7.00pm The Big Breakfast (20739)
 - 9.00pm Schools: The English Programme (187587), 9.25pm Schools at Work (8238536), 9.30pm Geography Junction (8175791), 9.45pm Book Box (8170246), 10.00pm Sleep Two Science (9387284), 10.15pm Scoopscapes (8077807), 10.30pm Place and People (1924130), 10.50pm Stop Look Listen (8294401), 11.00pm Rat-A-Tat-Tat (3584604), 11.15pm The Mix (3507555)
 - 11.30pm Here's One I Made Earlier (153041197)
 - 12.00pm Sesame Street (153041197)
 - 12.30pm Bewitched (153041197)
 - 1.00pm Pet Rescue (153041197)
 - 1.30pm The Ocean World of John Steneman (153041197)
 - 1.55pm English Without Tears (1944) An antitoxic beetle falls for her butler but the course of true love never runs smoothly. Comedy, starring Penelope Ward. Directed by Harold French. (153041197)
 - 3.30pm Collectors' Lot (153041197)
 - 4.00pm Fifteen to One (153041197)
 - 4.30pm Countdown (153041197)
 - 4.55pm Mel Williams (153041197)
 - 5.05pm Pet Rescue (153041197)
 - 6.00pm Rescuers (153041197)
 - 6.30pm Hollyhocks (153041197)
 - 7.00pm Channel 4 News: Weather (153041197)
 - 7.55pm The 1999 Chitbank Private Bank Photography Prize (153041197)
 - 8.00pm CHOICE: To the Ends of the Earth in 1935, the Titanic was discovered on the bed of the icy North Atlantic ocean where it sank in 1912. Since then a bitter battle has raged in the US courts over what should become of the ill-fated passenger liner (216) (153041197)
 - 9.00pm CHOICE: Shanghai Vice Continuing the documentary looking on the city of Shanghai (277) (153041197)

- CHANNEL 5**
- 8.00am 5 News and Sport Headlines, sport and business (3103082)
 - 7.00pm WorldWide Part seven, Children's often difficult transition into formal education (153041197)
 - 7.30pm Wintzies' House (153041197)
 - 7.35pm Wintzies' House (153041197)
 - 8.00pm Havalazoo (153041197)
 - 8.30pm Dappledawn Farm (153041197)
 - 9.00pm Vies It Good for You? (153041197)
 - 9.25pm Rialto Grand Prix Postcards (1456352)
 - 9.30pm The Oprah Winfrey Show (9309311)
 - 10.20pm Sunset Beach: Cool goes on the offensive (153041197)
 - 11.10pm Leeza (934053)
 - 12.00pm 5 News at Noon (153041197)
 - 12.30pm Family Affairs: Pete is furious with Clare (153041197)
 - 1.00pm The Bold and the Beautiful: Michael fights his feelings (153041197)
 - 1.25pm The Roseanne Show: With actress Jennifer Tilly (153041197)
 - 2.00pm 100 Per Cent Gold (9338642)
 - 2.30pm Good Afternoon Lifestyle magazine, incorporating real-life soap Liverpool Adams, Eric Knowles with Selling the Family Silver and word game Cryptogram: 5 News Update (153041197)
 - 3.30pm The Punch and Judy Man (1962) Downbeat comedy drama, starring Tony Hancock as a seaside entertainer whose hairdressing snobbery ruins the local mayor's gala celebrations. With Sylvia Sims. Directed by Jeremy Summers (153041197)
 - 5.20pm Sunset Beach: Show earlier (153041197)
 - 6.00pm 100 Per Cent Computer-generated quiz (2672623)
 - 6.30pm Family Affairs: Claire wakes up battered and bruised (153041197)
 - 7.00pm 5 News: Weather: Sky's Young rounds up the day's stories (153041197)
 - 7.30pm Champions of Nature: Efforts to protect the polar bear's fragile natural habitat, currently endangered by pollution (153041197)
 - 8.00pm Instant Gardens: Jac Flower continues her transformation of Melinda Messenger's country garden by commissioning a stonemason and an artist to build a pagan statue (414) (153041197)
 - 8.30pm Animal ER: The vets help release a pregnant mare entangled in barbed wire (316) (153041197)
 - 9.00pm All Star: Ever Wanted (153041197)
 - 9.30pm Powerful drama, starring Marcia Cross as a woman suffering from a debilitating medical condition who rejects medical advice in her determination to become a mother. Directed by Michael Scott (153041197)
 - 10.50pm Fox's Chart Update: Pop hits (868) (153041197)
 - 10.55pm V The aliens attempt to steal the Earth's water supply (153041197)
 - 12.00pm Live and Dangerous: Day four of the Wrecker X Games (6542242)
 - 4.40pm Prisoner: Cell Block H (7363482)
 - 5.30pm 100 Per Cent (153041197)

- WALES**
- 6.30pm-7.00pm Wales Today (153041197)
 - 10.00pm Labour of Love (153041197)
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- For further listings see Saturday's Vision**
- SKY ONE**
- 7.00pm Pingu (153041197)
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COMPANIES 43
Rentokil faces
up to its
earnings test

BUSINESS

EURO PLAN 46

Roger Bootle on
Hamlet without
the Prince



BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY MARCH 1 1999

Trinity's £1bn bid hots up fight for Mirror

By RAYMOND SNOODY, MEDIA EDITOR

THE battle for control of Mirror Group began in earnest over the weekend as Trinity, the UK's largest regional newspaper group, tabled an indicative share and cash offer worth more than £1 billion for the newspaper and television group.

The Trinity offer, which is priced in the range of 20p to 21p a share, came as rival bidder, Regional Independent Media, publisher of the Yorkshire Post, decided to play a longer game. Rather than reveal its hand by submitting a new bid, RIM will, instead, make a formal application this week to the Department of Trade and Industry for permission to acquire Mirror Group, publisher of *The Mirror*, *Sunday Mirror* and *Daily Record*.

This will trigger an automatic Monopolies and Mergers Commission investigation, which will take at least three months. The move by Trinity is a reversal of the previous roles of the two rivals for the group. Trinity withdrew from earlier talks while RIM made the running with a 20p a share cash offer. Now it is likely that the future ownership of the national and regional newspaper company will not be decided until after an MMC inquiry into both the Trinity and RIM approaches.

From today, Trinity will be deemed to be in an offer period. The company will bring forward its annual results, which could be announced as early as today but certainly early this week. Pre-tax profits

of more than £72 million are expected, compared with £63.3 million in the previous year. Trinity's hope is that the performance will boost its share price and in turn help to improve the value of any share offer for Mirror Group.

Mirror Group itself will announce its results on Thursday with pre-tax profits of £101 million before exceptional expenses up from £93 million last time. Analysts are currently pitching their takeover valuations in the region of 22p to 23p per share.

The inevitable delay in the determination of Mirror Group's future could place limits on the ability of John Allwood, chief executive, to act. He is believed to be looking at the sale of Mirror's 20 per cent stake in Scottish Media and Live TV. However, the Takeover Panel may decide that such disposals cannot be made in an offer period.

Trinity's strongest card is the preference of Phillips & Drew Fund Management, Mirror's largest shareholder, for a paper deal. It has a large number of big stakes in underperforming companies, and bought its stake at a high price. The fund manager is unlikely to accept cash unless it realises a significant profit, implying an offer price as high as 25p a share.

RIM, a private company, believes that *The Mirror* and in particular the *Sunday Mirror* and *The People* need considerable investment to turn them round and that can best be achieved away from the gaze of the City.



Lift off: Canary Wharf is this week expected to confirm plans for a stock market float. Although the company that owns and develops the Docklands site has never formally confirmed that it intends to float, all the advisers are now in place and preparations are in hand for a spring market debut that would value the company at more than £2 billion. Story, page 45

C&W prepares for One-2-One flotation

By RAYMOND SNOODY

CABLE & WIRELESS, the international telecommunications group, is considering a flotation of One-2-One, the mobile telephone operator.

The telecoms group plans to cash in on investor enchantment with mobile phone companies. Analysts believe that One-2-One, a 50-50 joint venture between C&W and MediaOne, the US cable group, could be worth as much as £7 billion - £5 billion after debt. One-2-One is the smallest of Britain's four mobile phone companies with about two million subscribers but the whole mobile sector has seen rapid growth in recent months.

Cable & Wireless shares have performed badly compared with rivals such as BT, underperforming the telecommunications sector by 63 per cent over the past 12 months. The company believes that a flotation could release some of the value hidden in One-2-One.

Some analysts have wondered whether C&W would be prepared to sell its stake in the mobile company. C&W's new chief executive, Graham Wallace, made it clear in an interview last week that he sees mobile as a continuing part of the group, as one of the ways of delivering services to customers. C&W is more likely to be a purchaser of the MediaOne stake rather than a seller.

However, Mr Wallace ex-

Corporate profile.....44

plained that the relationship with MediaOne is a good one and there is absolutely nothing that needs fixing.

The float of a minority stake in the mobile group would help to put a market price on the company. The decision on whether or not to float One-2-One will be one of the first to be taken by Mr Wallace since

taking over. C&W has been an underperformer because of uncertainty over its 54 per cent stake in HongKong Telecom and years of management instability, which the City hopes has been ended by the appointment of Mr Wallace.

C&W declined to comment yesterday on its future plans for One-2-One.

Apart from the likely One-2-One initiative Mr Wallace will concentrate on accelerating Cable & Wireless's plans to create a global data network based on the Internet.

Any initial offering of One-2-One would be a minority interest, probably in the region of 25 per cent of the business.

The ultimate ownership situation could then be clarified at a later date.

The obvious template is the success of Orange which was floated by Hutchison Whampoa and British Aerospace in 1996 and is now valued at more than £10.5 billion.

Further rate cut expected

By ALASDAIR MURRAY
ECONOMICS
CORRESPONDENT

THE City is optimistic that the Bank of England will again cut rates when the Monetary Policy Committee meets this week.

Although the MPC has reduced rates from a peak of 7.5 per cent to 5.5 per cent, analysts believe there are few signs that the Bank is ready to call a halt to its cutting spree.

The Bank still believes there are significant downside risks. Eddie George, the Governor, said yesterday that there was little that he could do to further ease the pain suffered by the manufacturing sector. "I could seek to ease the pain but only by giving an aspirin and actually the underlying pain would be worse later on if I did," he added, however, that he thought the chances that Britain suffered a technical recession during the first part of this year were only about "one in four".

Virgin on BA's tail with Union Jack design

By SAIED SHAH

VIRGIN ATLANTIC is to adopt the Union Jack in a new design for its aircraft to be unveiled later this year in a move intended to mock arch-rival British Airways, which dropped the national flag from its livery, to much derision, two years ago.

The new Virgin livery may feature the flag on the tailfins of its aircraft. BA said yesterday that it would press ahead with its new multicultural look, announced in June 1997. It has already painted 200 of its 350 aircraft with a range of internationally-inspired designs, in place of "British" livery.

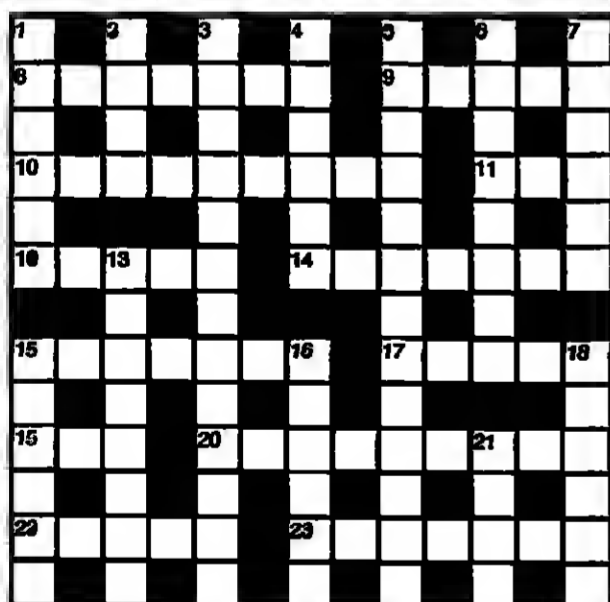
Paul Moore, a spokesman for Virgin, said: "Although we're an international company, we're proud to be British." Virgin has spent "tens of thousands" of pounds on the new design for the outside of its aircraft, which will number

30 by the end of this year, in contrast to the millions spent by British Airways to come up with its multicoloured "ethnic" designs.

Richard Branson's airline will also unveil a new interior refit, costing £25 million to £30 million, which follows BA with a seat for business or "upper" class that can be made completely flat for sleeping. Virgin will also announce that it has applied for a route to Chicago. New routes to Chicago, Shanghai and New York will generate 500 extra jobs.

For its part, BA, which has been losing market share in business class, has begun a significant internal restructuring, which will divide the company into short-haul (UK and Europe) and two long-haul businesses, one for Asia and the Middle East, and the other for the Americas.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1653

ACROSS

- 8 Capital of Kenya (7)
- 9 Club for superintelligent (5)
- 10 Bottom drawer contents (9)
- 11 Have debt (5)
- 12 Formal reasoning (5)
- 14 In irritable manner (7)
- 15 Make believe (7)
- 17 Cute Disney deer (5)
- 19 Beer cask (5)
- 20 A cuddly toy (5,4)
- 22 Gk. island, off Albania (5)
- 23 Pen in (7)

DOWN

- 1 Gradually introduce, establish (6)
- 2 Bye-bye (Ital.) (4)
- 3 Conker tree (5,8)
- 4 Amuse; change course (6)
- 5 Spin-of-moment purchasing (7,6)
- 6 Speech of praise (8)
- 7 Table linen set (6)
- 13 Decorative foliage (8)
- 15 Coup d'état (6)
- 16 Work out by 12 (6)
- 18 Country S of Lebanon (5)
- 21 Way out (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1652
ACROSS: 1 Cycle 4 Furtive 8 Smothered mate 9 Ideology 10 Jilt 12 Squire 13 Infect 16 Bark 17 Bulldoze 20 Overawe 21 Sheba 22 Ensnare 23 Odyssey
DOWN: 1 Cassius 2 Close quarters 3 Exhaling 4 Forge 5 Redo 6 Imagine 7 Eject 11 Anglesley 14 Therapy 15 Tuxedo 16 Booze 18 Opens 19 Wake

THE TIMES BOOKSHOP

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To order simply call 0900 134 134 for credit card orders or for further details. (If paying by cheque/PO) please make payable to News Books/Crosswords and send to: The Times Bookshop, PO Box 265, Falmouth, T11 2YX. Delivery in 10-14 days and subject to availability.

HoJo hotels enter UK

By DOMINIC WALSH

PREMIER HOTELS, the budget hotel operator, is bringing the Howard Johnson (HoJo) and Days Inn brands to the UK in a £300 million development project.

Building has begun at two sites as part of a franchise agreement signed last year with Candant, the troubled US consumer services group that owns the Days Inn. Howard

Johnson, Ramada and Super 8 budget hotel brands.

Although Candant's hotel brands are little known internationally, they dominate US economy lodging. Days Inn claims to be the world's biggest hotel brand, with more than 2,000 hotels, and Howard Johnson has 650, although only 150 are outside the US.

Premier Hotels is already a big Holiday Inn Express franchisee, with seven units open

and six under construction.

Under its deal with Candant, it plans to open 60 Howard Johnson and Days Inn units in the next three years. Premier aims to open more than 1,000 rooms in London alone, and the first hotel will be a £9 million, 162-room Days Inn near the Imperial War Museum, due to open in November. In West Bromwich, work has begun on an £8 million, 140-room Howard Johnson, to open in October.

Hinchliffe quick on the draw as cartoon investor

By FRASER NELSON

STEPHEN HINCHLIFFE, the Sheffield businessman accused by the Serious Fraud Office of ten counts of corruption, is trying to revive his career with children's cartoons.

He is in talks to buy the rights to *Sunshine Sammy's Battle of the Elements*, a cartoon dreamt up by Jim Stanton Barber, a 71-year-old inventor who became a millionaire by devising a draught excluder. *Sunshine Sammy* is also being backed by Patrick Moore, the astronomer.

Mr Hinchliffe is expected to run the business with his son James from Parkhead Hall, Sheffield - the same offices he used to control his Facia retail empire before it collapsed.

Mr Stanton Barber, a friend of Mr Moore, said: "Poor old Stephen has had a real bashing and been accused of conmanism, when he didn't do any conning. He is completely honest, quite shy and a very very nice chap indeed."



Sunshine Sammy: new investor

Mr Hinchliffe, still being investigated by the Department of Trade and Industry over Facia's collapse, said yesterday that talks over the cartoon venture are still at an early stage. However, minutes of a meeting in January between Mr Hinchliffe and Mr Stanton

Barber state that Mr Hinchliffe has agreed to buy the sole trading rights to Prime Concepts, the company that owns the rights to the cartoon. Mr Stanton Barber said: "It's a done deal. Stephen has not put his signature to it because that is not the way he does business, but he has promised he won't go back on his word."

As he is legally forbidden from being a director, his role in Prime Concepts is "main investor". Mr Stanton Barber, who has spent ten years developing Prime Concepts, said: "This cartoon should go on to make billions. If I get 13 per cent of billions, I won't complain."

Mr Stanton Barber says he is to talk this month to Michael Caine, the actor, about investing in *Sunshine Sammy*. The cartoon's characters, based on the weather, include General Thunderhead, Jack Frost and Monsoon Mary.



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